CHICKASAW TIMES

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New Tishomingo health clinic reaches construction milestone

The last steel beam is placed on the structural framework of the new Chickasaw Nation Health Clinic in Tishomingo, Okla.

Gov. Bill Anoatubby speaks during the June 15 "topping out" ceremony for the new Tishomingo Health Clinic.

TISHOMINGO, Okla. - Gov. Bill Anoatubby led a special "topping out" ceremony June 15 to celebrate a significant milestone reached in the construction of the new Chickasaw Nation Tishomingo Health Clinic.

The clinic's final steel beam was signed and put in place. Gov. Anoatubby, construction workers, tribal officials and guests, witnessed the beam placed on the structural framework of the new 53,000 square-foot medical clinic.

"We will continue to update health facilities as our needs continue to grow and services expand," Gov. Anoatubby said. "This will be more than just a clinic. It is a medical facility where we will provide the best possible care for Native Americans in the Tishomingo area."

Ground was originally broken on the clinic in June 2011.

SEE **TISHOMINGO CLINIC**, PAGE 2

Save the Date!

Annual Meeting, Festival set for Sept. 29 - Oct. 6

Mark your calendar now for the 2012 Chickasaw Nation Annual Meeting and Festival!

Activities begin Saturday, Sept. 29 and culminate Saturday, Oct. 6.

This year marks the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Chickasaw Nation and the 24th Annual Chickasaw Festival.

The theme for this year's Annual Meeting and Festival is "Spirit of Nation."

Many events are planned for the week-long celebration of Chickasaw heritage and culture.

Exciting festivities are scheduled in Tishomingo, Ada, Emet, Kullihoma and Sulphur, including Cultural Evening, Southeastern Art Show and Market, Annual Meeting, cultural events, entertainment, games, fellowship and more.

The Annual Meeting, highlighted by Gov. Bill Anoatubby's State of the Nation Address, begins at 9 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 6 at Fletcher Auditorium on the campus of Murray State College in Tishomingo.

For more information, including a schedule of events and vendor applications, visit www.chickasaw.net/annual-meeting or call (580) 371-2040. Event schedule is subject to change. Please visit often for the latest event updates.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Chickasaw diver competes at U.S. Olympic trials in Seattle

KAYLEA ARNETT

FEDERAL WAY, Wash. - Chickasaw diver Kaylea Arnett recently competed against the top divers in the country at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Federal Way. She was shooting for a spot on the U.S. Olympic diving team and a trip to the 2012 London Olympics.

Miss Arnett, 19, just completed her freshman year at Virginia Tech University. While she did not qualify for the final Olympic team, she made a good showing and is looking forward to Olympic competition in the future.

"It was a really good experience to get out there and dive with the best," Miss Arnett

SEE **KAYLEA ARNETT**, PAGE 3

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Inter-Tribal Council voices support for IRR, water suit, HUD talks

NORMAN, Okla. – The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes has proposed continued Indian Reservation Roads Program funding; government-to-government consultation with the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development; and support of the water resources suit filed by the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations.

During its June 8 meeting at Riverwind Casino in Norman, leaders of the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek and Seminole nations also agreed to resume regular meetings of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes.

The June meeting marked the first meeting in several years in the traditional format, which includes four additional representatives to the council from each tribe. Seminole Chief Leonard Harjo served as council president during earlier meetings of tribal leaders.

First organized in February 1950, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes represents more than 600,000 tribal citizens. Collectively, the five tribes represented by the council employ more than 30,000 Oklahomans and make an economic contribution of more than $5 billion annually to the state of Oklahoma.

President of the Council, Creek Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, said the council represented one of the most powerful voices for Indian people in the U.S.

The council voted support for Indian Reservation Roads program, which completes critical road and bridge projects throughout the lands of the Five Civilized Tribes. The resolution supports the tribal transportation funding formula outlined in the Moving Ahead for Progress transportation bill (S. 1813).

"Tribes receive millions of dollars each year for construction and repair of roads which benefit not only tribes, but also the general public," Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. "We think it is important that we continue to work together with the state of Oklahoma, counties and cities to build and maintain roads which benefit everyone concerned."

The Chickasaw and Choctaw nations filed a complaint August 18, 2011 in federal court to protect the waters of southeastern Oklahoma. The council decreed support for the tribal suit.

The council's support for government-to-government consultation between the tribes and the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development was also supported by Wayne Sims, administrator of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Southern Plains Office. The working relationship between HUD and the tribes in Oklahoma, Mr. Sims said, was very effective. He said he looked forward to continuing the strong working relationship that offers benefits through the Indian Community Development Block Grant program and other services.

Blake Wade, Executive Director of the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, expressed his gratitude for the support tribes have given to the facility.

Although the Oklahoma legislature did not pass a bond issue this year to support continued construction of the facility, Mr. Wade said, that would not prevent completion of the project.

"We've hit a bump in the road, but we are going to get it done," Mr. Wade said.

Chief Tiger is President of the inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes. Other tribal leaders on the council include Cherokee Principal Chief Bill John Baker, Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby and Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard Harjo.

The Inter-Tribal Council is scheduled to meet again in October 2012.

CONTRIBUTED BY Tony Choate, Media Relations.

TISHOMINGO CLINIC | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The clinic is projected to open in February 2013. Flintco, Inc. is administering the clinic construction.

At more than four times the size of the current Tishomingo clinic, the new clinic will offer greatly expanded services.

Once completed, the new facility will feature 21 exam rooms, 12 dental chairs, a pharmacy drive-through, ultrasound exams, mammograms, bone density scans and hearing exams. Oklahoma Optical, the tribe's full-service optical lab, will also provide its services at the clinic. The clinic design will reflect the tribe's traditions and culture.

The new Tishomingo Health Clinic construction, along with the construction of the new Chickasaw Nation Ardmore Health Clinic, qualified for the Indian Health Service (IHS) Joint Venture Funding program.

The program was established to develop partnerships between tribes and IHS. Tribes compete for access to the program. Tribes who acquire or construct a tribally-owned health care facility may be selected to participate.

In exchange for purchasing or constructing a health care facility with tribal funds, IHS provides funding for certain staffing and operational costs.

The clinic, once open, will employ 80 additional staff.

CONTRIBUTED BY Kyle Wittman, Public Affairs

Open enrollment now under way at Chickasaw Nation Head Start Centers

Open enrollment is now available with the Chickasaw Nation Head Start program.

Enrollment applications are being accepted through the four Chickasaw Nation Head Start locations – Ada, Ardmore, Sulphur and Tishomingo. Applications are accepted year-round. Current recruitment efforts are designed to promote the unique services offered by the Head Start program.

The Chickasaw Nation Head Start is a child development program that serves income-eligible, Native American and Non-Native American families with children ages three to five. The program is designed to help children learn and react positively to present environments.

The program is designed to teach students the skills needed for later responsibilities in school and life. The program also provides transportation services for all Head Start students.

The Chickasaw Nation Head Start program focuses on providing skill-appropriate services for all Head Start students. Children with special needs and disabilities are a top priority and individuals are encouraged to take advantage of the unique support provided by the Head Start program.

For more information on enrollment or to obtain an application, call the Chickasaw Nation Head Start Center in your area.

Ada Center (580) 310-6638, Melissa Morgan, Supervisor

Ardmore Center (580) 223-6276, Janice Richardson, Supervisor

Sulphur Center (580) 622-6200, Rhonda Priddy, Supervisor

Tishomingo Center (580) 371-3216, Deloris Campbell, Supervisor

CONTRIBUTED BY Brooke Tidwell, Public Affairs

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All editorials and letters will become the property of the Chickasaw Times. Editorials must be signed by the author and include the author's address.

Deadline for submission is the 22nd of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.

370 million indigenous people key to human rights efforts

Indigenous people ring the globe.

We Chickasaws are one of thousands of tribes of native peoples who live on every continent on Earth. It's an incredible story when you consider the way our world appears today.

For tens of thousands of years, native people formed tribes in their homeland areas. Different tribes matured in different ways, but the common denominator was living and surviving in the natural world.

That was the reality for all native people until the time of contact with colonial powers. As far back as the ancient Egyptians, interaction with native people inevitably brought change. Often, the encroaching power changed the environment, and the people, in dramatic ways.

We all know our world has changed significantly in just the last century. However, those changes seem almost minor when viewed in the framework of the millions of native peoples' lives following contact.

Our lives as native people have obviously been impacted in countless ways. It was just over 500 years ago that the Chickasaw Nation had its first contact with European people in our original homeland area. Those 500 years represent not much more than one day in a lifetime of native history.

In 2007, the United Nations presented its Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The declaration was endorsed by the United States.

This declaration, while not a binding instrument in international law, recognizes that treatment of indigenous people will be a significant lever in improving universal human rights.

GOV. BILL ANOATUBBY

Governor, the Chickasaw Nation

The declaration takes into account many elements of modern native life, including health, education, employment and all those things in which virtually all people have an interest. More interesting is the declaration's focus on native culture, identity and language. For us, and for all native people, this focus is an affirmation of all those things we Chickasaws have held dear since time began.

Additionally, the declaration makes it clear that indigenous peoples should be fundamentally involved in "their own visions of economic and social development." It seems clear the Chickasaw Nation is ahead of the curve in those areas. We have, together, taken the initiative to develop our own commercial endeavors, as well as our own social institutions.

These are things we sometimes take for granted. But we should not. We have dedicated much effort to preserving our heritage, while also engaging the modern world in the ways that prepare the Chickasaw generations that will follow us.

We must remember that not all native peoples are in the type of environment Chickasaws now find themselves. We are in the modern world, while respecting, nurturing and celebrating our culture and traditions. Of the 370 million native peoples in the world, only a fraction enjoys the human rights and opportunities we have. It is our duty to support our native "cousins" who are even today experiencing neglect, discrimination and even, in some cases, elimination.

Even in our own country, hundreds of thousands of Indian people live in the hardest of circumstances and enjoy few of the human rights many of us often take for granted. In April of this year, the U.N. commissioned an investigation into how Indian people in America live, what their human rights really look like, and what can be done to improve the environment.

James Anaya, a human rights professor from the University of Arizona, is leading the investigation. He is visiting five states with significant Indian populations, including Oklahoma, where he has already concluded his visit.

Human rights are fundamental rights. Each person has the right to proper treatment. For indigenous peoples, those rights have frequently been ignored. The time is always right to engage and lift up the native peoples of the world, who have endured so much for so many generations.

KAYLEA ARNETT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said. "I didn't do as well as I thought I would, but it was definitely a learning experience."

Miss Arnett and her partner diver Michele Cabassol placed 13th in the Women's 3-Meter Synchronized Springboard event. Miss Arnett placed 26th in the Senior Women's 3-Meter Springboard Event, and 26th in the Senior Women's Platform event.

Miss Arnett is looking forward to competing again in four years for the 2016 Olympics Games. At 19, she is young for Olympic competition. Most top divers hit their peaks in their mid- to late 20s.

"Phenomenal" is an appropriate adjective to describe Miss Arnett's freshman year at Virginia Tech University. Named the team's rookie of the year, she set a school record in the 1-meter event while earning first place in the event at the Atlantic Coast Conference championships. She led her team with 50 points and was named the ACC's Most Valuable Women's Diver.

She led her team at the NCAA Championships with 19 points. Her performance resulted in her being named an All-American. She was also named the 2012 ACC Women's Diver of the Year.

She qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials following top finishes in national and international competitions.

All of Miss Arnett's freshman accomplishments are listed at http://www.hokiesports.com/swimming/players/arnett_kaylea.html.

Miss Arnett has been diving competitively for 11 years. For most of that time her mother, Terrie Elrod Arnett, attended almost every event, while her entire family has offered their support.

Governor Bill Anoatubby said the Arnett family is a great example of Chickasaw family values.

"Kaylea not only has great natural talent, she also has the dedication and commitment necessary to achieve her goals," Gov. Anoatubby said. "Her family has also provided the support and encouragement that can be so vital to success."

The move to Virginia Tech from her family home in Spring, Texas was quite an adjustment.

"Having my mom at all these competitions was definitely a support," Miss Arnett said. "I call my mom all the time. We keep in touch. I try not to call her too much, but she calls me too. It was little rough the first week, but you get adjusted."

Her mother said it was an adjustment for her as well.

"It was kind of empty-nest syndrome feeling, because we did travel all over together for most of her life," Mrs. Arnett said. "Then to have her leave it was like she went on vacation and didn't come home, or went on a long trip. But we get to go and visit her and she is really happy with the team and the coach and that makes us feel more comfortable."

Miss Arnett's father, Kevin Arnett, said it was much quieter at home now, even though the Arnetts still have one daughter – also a diver - in the house.

"Alyssa is a beautiful diver," Mr. Arnett said. "She's not as competitive. She's a social diver, I guess is a good word for it. She has fun. She loves to hang out with the divers."

Alyssa recently broke one of her sister's records at Spring High School.

"We were at a meet and I didn't think about passing her, but it happened and my coach was excited," Alyssa said.

"Alyssa was a freshman this year and she thought she would never be able to break her sister's record, but she did at her first home meet," Mrs. Arnett said. "She was very excited about that, because she really looks up to her sister."

That accomplishment led to thoughts that there could eventually be two Olympic athletes in the family.

"I have thought of that," Alyssa said with a big grin. "I think it would be pretty fun to do synchro with her. We could possibly do it."

Mrs. Arnett was very excited at the possibility.

"We would like to see them do (synchronized diving) if we could get them together," she said. "Alyssa is just getting old enough to really be interested in that and really start working for that. Kaylea will be in really her peak age, getting at the top of her college age. So maybe we can get the veteran to work with the up-and-comer."

While they look forward to that possibility, many things have changed in the daily routine at the Arnett home.

"It used to be drive to practice, drive home, eat, drive, change in the car, drive back to practice, drive back home," Mrs. Arnett said. "Now I work full-time and Alyssa drives herself to practice. Kaylea's away at college and calls home two or three times a week. So my job changed from mom taxi to full-time work and watching the girls get older and fend for themselves."

Even though there have been some changes, some things remain the same.

"I still get the same phone call when there is car trouble," Mr. Arnett said with a laugh. "There is just an extra car in there now."

Miss Arnett's Chickasaw ancestors include great-great-great-grandfather Jackson Kemp; great-great-great-grandmother Sallie Grinslade; great-great-grandfather Walter Grinslade; and great-grandmother Christine Grinslade.

Miss Arnett's grandparents are Jerry and Sharron Elrod, of Borger, Texas.

CONTRIBUTED BY Tony Choate, Media Relations.

‘Chickasaw Country’ offers a great menu of attractions

Chukma,

We are well into our summer now and many of you are seeking ways to beat the heat. Recently the Chickasaw Nation and the Arbuckle Country Marketing Association (ACMA) announced the regional tourism area of South Central Oklahoma would be changed from Arbuckle Country to Chickasaw Country. This is great source of pride for us. Our tribe has been very active in improving the tourism opportunities in our area. We have so many places for you to visit and enjoy right here in The Chickasaw Nation.

DAVID WOERZ

Chairman, Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Some of our attractions include the Chickasaw Cultural Center, Winstar Casino, Arbuckle Lake, The Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Lake Murray, Turner Falls, Lake Texoma, Riverwind Casino and many more. We are blessed with vibrant and historic towns that offer everything from spa treatments to antique shopping. Water sports abound and we have many riding and walking trails so you can enjoy the beauty of our land. We are truly blessed to be living in such a wonderful place.

As a Director of the Ardmore Tourism Authority, I recently had the honor of being present at the bill signing for the new lodge at Lake Murray. I can remember being at the lodge watching fireworks, playing shuffle board and spending the Fourth of July with my family over 35 years ago.

The old lodge had seen its better days, so the State of Oklahoma has decided to build a modern lodge while keeping the look and feel of the old WPA buildings original to the park. Oklahoma State Rep. Tommy Hardin, Oklahoma State Rep. Pat Ownbey and Sen. Frank Simpson along with the Ardmore Tourism Authority worked diligently to get the bill passed.

If you are a citizen who lives outside the South Central Oklahoma, we want you to come and visit your Chickasaw Country. Come reconnect and see our blessed home.

Yokoke,
David Woerz
Chairperson

Pictured are State Sen. Frank Simpson, TribalLegislator David Woerz and State Rep. Pat Ownbey.

Engage energy assistance programs during hot summer

Chukma!

Good morning, and I hope you and yours are enjoying a restful and fun summer. This is the time of year when the kids are out of school, families take vacations and the pace of life slows a bit.

However, in many areas of the country people must face very high and even dangerous temperatures. Within the Chickasaw Nation, the thermometer has already topped 100 degrees, and the outlook is for more very hot weather.

Regardless of where you live, the Chickasaw Nation offers assistance for elders and income-qualified citizens who need help with utility bills. We all know that air conditioning is virtually a requirement now, but that it also becomes very expensive when temperatures stay high for a period of time.

DEAN MCMANUS

Secretary, Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

The tribe operates an Elder Energy Assistance Program and an Emergency Energy Assistance Program. Both programs are operated by the Division of Social Services. To quickly gain access to the programs, go to your Area Office and complete the paperwork.

If you live outside the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation, the programs are also available to you. You may contact the Division of Social Services at (580) 436-7256 or by mail at P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821.

Area Office personnel will need a few items from you to get the process going. You should bring along your CDIB, Chickasaw citizenship card, Social Security card, proof of residency and income and a utility bill.

We very much want to help all our citizens who are faced with utility bills that are more than they can handle. It is a critical health situation, particularly for our elders, when temperatures soar.

The assistance applies to electricity, natural gas, propane bills and deposits.

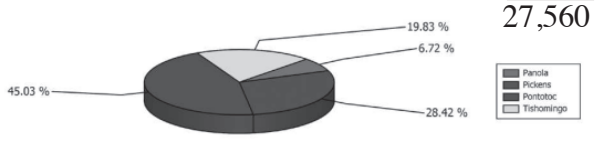
Many of us recall the days when there was no air conditioning, and it is hard to believe we made it through with just a fan. Of course, many of us were much younger in those days!

Don’t hesitate to call or stop by your Area Office today. We want to help keep you and your family cool, safe and healthy.

God Bless and Chipisala’cho (I will see you).

Count of Voters by District

Panola	1,853	Pontotoc	12,410
Pickens	7,832	Tishomingo	5,465
			27,560



Seniors take trip to OCU, enjoy production of ‘TeAta’

Let me introduce you to our new site director for the Panola District Senior Center, Ms. Cathy Bodine. She is a native to the Panola District and a 29-year veteran of the United States Postal Service. Cathy is the daughter of Mr. Benny Taylor and is a descendant of Mr. Levi Colbert. She is a people person and enjoys working with the senior citizens. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, cooking/baking and solving sudoki puzzles!

Cathy Bodine

Since being here, Cathy has already accompanied a group of seniors on a trip to Branson, Mo. After numerous fried pie sales, taco dinners and other fund raisers, the Panola Seniors embarked on a short jaunt. They took in 4 shows and also saw some beautiful countryside.

BETH ALEXANDER

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

In mid June, Cathy took a van of seniors to see the Chickasaw Production of TeAta. The play was being preformed at the Oklahoma City University. Staring in the role of TeAta as a young adult is one of our Panola District citizens, Tana Takeshorse Cleamons. Tana is from the Achille area and attended school in Colbert. Our seniors had a wonderful time attending the play and seeing Tana perform.

Bloomfield School Indian Cemetery News: An update on Mr. Holmes Colbert. According to his marker, Mr. Colbert was laid to rest on March 24, 1872. He leaves behind a distinguished legacy. Holmes assisted in writing our 1850s Chickasaw Constitution and he served as the Tribe’s delegate to Washington, D.C., after the American Civil War. He was married to Ms. Betsy Love and it is recorded that they had three children. Mr. Colbert passed away while working in Washington, D. C., and per his request his body was transported back home to the Panola District on the first passenger train that came over the Katy railroad. According to documents, Mr. Colbert’s body laid in state in Washington, D.C., for five years waiting for the completion of the Katy railroad line.

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. II Peter 3:9

Beth Alexander (580) 283-3409 P.O. Box 246, Achille, Ok. 74720 Bethalexander22@hotmail.com

Standing in back from left, Neva Hodge, Larry Skinner, Kay Anders and Harold Anders. Next row from left, Katrinka Skinner, Dolly Nichols and Carol Dodson; sitting from left, Barbara Long, Patricia Goodin, Serena Peters and James Dodson. Standing, Mary Barcenas

It's always a good time to gather with Chickasaws

KATIE CASE

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello Everybody,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

You know, many of us are fortunate in that we have family members with whom we live, and or gather with regularly on week ends, birthdays, holidays and other special occasions. I know that our lives are enriched, and we are better, stronger people when we are a part of each others' lives.

Some of us Chickasaws may not be so fortunate as to have immediate family members in our daily lives. Life events or circumstances may have taken them from us or kept us from knowing them at all.

But, the good news is, we are always Chickasaw and part of the Chickasaw family. Therefore, opportunities to connect with our Chickasaw families are a great source of individual strength.

While every opportunity to be with Chickasaw people is to be cherished, two of my favorite types of events are Chickasaw Gatherings and Chickasaw Community Council meetings.

In June, Chickasaw West Council, one of the oldest Chickasaw Councils, held their annual meeting in Santee Lakes, CA.

Being with other Chickasaws is a great opportunity to connect and learn through visiting and sharing family history. This year, in Santee, I learned lessons about perseverance, the strength of the human spirit and love of family from Buck Adair.

Buck lives in California, and has traveled all over this country.

But, he is quick to tell you that he is Chickasaw and from Oklahoma.

Buck will be 90 years old in July. This last year has been challenging. Buck has had some health issues. But, you would never know by looking at him. On a beautiful, sunny California, Saturday in June, Buck was with fellow Chickasaws, sharing great stories and laughing at the park in Santee.

So, make an effort. Juggle your schedule. Take the kids. Go to where Chickasaws gather. Buck is one of a kind. But there are many others worth meeting, listening to and getting to know.

I promise. Your life will be enriched.

Respectfully,

Katie

Buck Adair

Tribal budget reflects strong economic course

D. SCOTT COLBERT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

A forecast review of fiscal year 2013 Chickasaw Consolidated Governmental Budget reflects substantial revenue increases and new and more spending for services both in and outside the Nation.

Chickasaw commerce and industries continue a strong economic course and provide the bulk of the financing with $138 million proposed for governmental operations and services including education, hospital funding, youth and family services, cultural services, senior and nutrition services, capital improvements and other services. New and better capital improvements provide facilities for services, employees, and for continued growth of service.

In 1987, tribal net assets were reported to be $9.3 million. In 2011, the Chickasaw Nation reports an executive leadership of 15 administrators, four CEOs and $1.4 *billion* in total net assets. Today, the Division of Commerce reports 29 businesses including gaming centers throughout every corridor within the tribal boundaries. These businesses provide employment to the Chickasaw people and a large part of the revenue needed to provide much of the services for the Chickasaw Government.

The Legislative Branch reviews and approves budgets for the programs and the Executive Branch is responsible for implementing the services and programs and preparing the division budgets. Both the Legislative and Executive Branch work as two independent bodies to provide for a checks and balances in providing services and programs for the Chickasaws.

Today, as in years past, the interests and benefits of the Chickasaw people are served by a cooperative Legislative and Executive Branch in providing services and a commitment to preserving history and culture, educational opportunities, medical and hospital facilities to accommodate ever growing technology and service population, and a commitment to our seniors and elders that their grandchildren's grandchildren will be Chickasaw.

With continued support of the Chickasaw people everywhere, the Legislature will continue to work with the Executive Branch.

I will continue my commitment to work with all the Legislature members, the Governor, Lt. Governor, the Courts and all employees and members of the Chickasaw Nation.

I will continue to visit all the communities and people within the Tishomingo District.

You may always call me at (580) 421-3425; my email address is scott.colbert@chickasaw.net my address is P.O. Box 773, Sulphur, Oklahoma, 73086.

Now is a great time to join the Chickasaw Historical Society

NANCY ELLIOTT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chukma, Hello Everyone,

It seems like summer is a time when everyone slows down. We go for walks or just sit out on the porch, go to the lake, have family reunions, watch our kids and grandkids play ball, and have lots of backyard barbecues.

Summer can also be a great time to learn more about our history and culture. A visit to the Chickasaw Cultural Center, the Chickasaw Council House Museum, or the Chickasaw White House with friends and family can be a great way to be a part of that history by helping to preserve our culture.

Another great way to help preserve our history and culture is by becoming a member of the Chickasaw Historical Society.

The Chickasaw Historical Society was established by tribal law in 1994, and the mission is to promote, preserve, and protect Chickasaw culture and family traditions by researching and documenting historical information, profiling achievements of our citizens, promoting tribal arts and language, and encouraging archival and museum donations. They have also been responsible for placing historical granite markers at various places throughout the Chickasaw Nation. The CHS is involved in many activities throughout the year, which include publishing "The Journal of Chickasaw History and Culture," a biannual publication, featuring more than 150 articles ranging from pre-history to modern day events. The CHS also sells bricks, with family names or titles engraved on them, which are then placed at various historical sites within the Chickasaw Nation. To learn more about the Chickasaw Historical Society or to become a member, you can visit the website, www.chickasaw.net, or call (580) 559-0847. I hope to see you out and about enjoying your summer. Please let me know if I can help you in any way.

Chipisala cho,

Nancy Elliott

Pontotoc District Seat 2

(580) 399-437

Nancy.elliott@Chickasaw.net

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MARY JO GREEN

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District. June was a very busy month with the Division of Arts and Humanities' Chamber Music Festival, Sovereignty Symposium, the performance of the play Te Ata and community council meetings including the Chickasaw West Community Council's annual event.

The annual picnic in Santee Park in San Diego was very well planned and the attendees were very friendly, as usual. It had been four years since I last attended and it was wonderful to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances.

The Oklahoma City Community Council meeting had an interesting speaker. Debbie Martin told us about a golf program for youth named First Tee. The program not only teaches the game of golf, but also life skills and core values such as honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence perseverance, courtesy and judgment. Such values are so important for today's youth.

I would like to introduce you to an interesting elder, Laura Watson. Laura's parents were full blood Chickasaw, James and Evlyn Byrd Frazier. She was born eight miles north of Centrahoma, Okla. She attended local schools and Goodland Indian school in Hugo, and then attended Haskell Indian Boarding School in Kansas.

After graduating from LPN school in Albuquerque, she studied as a surgical nurse at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas. Her nursing career totaled 50 years and took her from Baylor to Talihina Indian Hospital, Doctors' Hospital in Eugene, Oregon, Valley View Hospital in Ada and Antlers Nursing home and Pushmataha Hospital in Antlers, Okla.

Laura Watson

Laura married her late Choctaw husband and lived in Antlers for 40 years. She now lives in Ada and volunteers at the gift shop in the Chickasaw Medical Center, Caring Heart and the Chickasaw Senior Center. She has enriched our lives here in Ada and we are very thankful that she has returned to her Chickasaw roots.

I would love to hear from you! My email address is mary.green@chickasaw.net and my address and telephone number are listed elsewhere in this and every issue of *the Chickasaw Times* and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site.

Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people. Thank you!

Thorpe Games offers tribes opportunity to show pride

SHANA HAMMOND

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Greetings from the Pickens District! Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the opening ceremonies for the Jim Thorpe Native American Games at Remington Park in Oklahoma City. This event brought together Native American athletes from across the United States and Canada for a week-long showcase of talents in various sports.

The parade of nations was a spectacular sight. Each tribe carried its flag and showed such pride and spirit for their people.

The Chickasaw Nation was well represented by both athletes and Governor Anoatubby, who had the privilege of declaring the opening of the games. Events for the week included, baseball, softball, basketball, tennis, stickball, golf, track & field, cross country, wrestling, martial arts, beach volleyball and football.

For those of you who might have heard of Jim Thorpe, but really don't know his background, to say he was an exceptional athlete is an understatement.

A member of the Sac and Fox tribe, he was born near Prague, Okla., in 1887. He attended the Carlisle Industrial Indian School in Pennsylvania, where he played football and ran track. He attended the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden where he won both the pentathlon and decathlon and set records that stood for decades.

He went on to play baseball for the New York Giants, Cincinnati Reds and the Boston Braves. During many of his baseball years, he also played football. He was instrumental in forming the American Professional Football Association (which evolved into today's NFL) and became president of the group.

He is considered the greatest athlete of the 20th Century.

The next Jim Thorpe Native American Games are scheduled for 2014. Plan to attend or participate in the next games. It will be a one-of-a-kind experience.

But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ~Matthew 24:13

Shana Tate Hammond
Pickens District, Seat 4
(580) 235-1438
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Chickasaw Stickball team that competed in the Jim Thorpe Native American Games.

Making Chickasaw family connections a big plus!

TOBY PERKINS

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chokma,

I hope all is well with you and your family.

A big thank you goes to Sharon Tandy and everyone who helped organize the Chickasaw West Gathering. We had beautiful weather at Santee Lakes, Calif., wonderful food, and great fellowship.

Some new family connections were made. Mrs. Pallie Hogue asked if I knew any Underwoods, and I mentioned my Greenwood/Underwood family connection, and family was found! Visiting with Pallie, we also found a family connection with fellow legislator Katie Case. I always feel I am with family whenever I attend a Chickasaw event.

At the OKC community council we heard from Debi Martin, executive director of The First Tee Oklahoma City, who shared her program's mission with us.

First Tee is a non-profit organization committed to providing educational programs that build character, instill life enhancing values, and promote healthy choices to young people (ages 7-17) through the game of golf. Their life skills program consists of nine core values; honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy, and judgment.

In addition to golf lessons, they also offer lessons in living a healthy productive life. If you are in the Oklahoma City area, please visit www.thefirstteemetokc.com or contact (405) 820-7327 for registration. Outside of Oklahoma City, please visit www.thefirsttee.org to find information about a First Tee program in your area.

I would love to hear from you. Please contact me with your concerns, needs or questions. I am here to help.

May God bless you and your family.

Toby Perkins, Legislator
Pontotoc District, Seat 1
(580) 399-2606
toby.perkins@chickasaw.net

Legislator Toby Perkins, Pallie Hogue and Legislator Katie Case.

Chickasaw Cultural Center celebrates two years of sharing history

SULPHUR, Okla. - More than 115,000 people from around the world have experienced the Chickasaw Cultural Center since it opened two years ago this month.

Visitors from across the U.S., and from countries including Nepal, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, Russia, Germany, Japan, Bolivia, United Kingdom and Bangladesh have journeyed to the 109-acre campus in Sulphur and been immersed in Chickasaw culture and learned the unique Chickasaw story.

"Chickasaw people worked together for decades to present this place as the center of living Chickasaw culture and create a world-class tourist destination," said Gov. Bill Anoatubby. "We are thrilled that this vision of sharing our story, way of life and culture is now a reality."

Recipient of an Oklahoma RedBud Award for Outstanding Attraction of 2012, the Chickasaw Cultural Center is quickly becoming a top tourist destination in the state.

"As we pass the two-year anniversary of the opening of the Chickasaw Cultural Center, I am filled with pride to have been part of such an important endeavor," said Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham, administrator of the Chickasaw Nation Division of History and Culture.

Dr. Cobb-Greetham, a Chickasaw, gives credit for the Cultural Center's success to tribal leadership.

"This was made possible by the thoughtful leadership of Governor Anoatubby, combined with an award-winning staff," Dr. Cobb-Greetham said. "With the help of too many people to mention, the Cultural Center has thrived and truly become a place for all Chickasaws to call home, while also becoming an international tourist destination. I can't wait to see what the future holds."

On his visit to the Cultural Center from Surgut, Russia, Alexander Verevikin related the Chickasaw story to the stories of indigenous peoples of northern Russia.

"I am really impressed with how you maintain your heritage and don't forget your roots," he said. "Several of my former classmates maintain an exhibit in Russia devoted to the native people of northern Russia. I am going to share my experience with them."

With the latest technology, live demonstrations, ancient artifacts and natural outdoor spaces, the center tells the story of the unconquered and unconquerable Chickasaw Nation - from the ancient past to the present day.

Scott Jackson, a Chickasaw visiting for the first time, said that the Cultural Center did a great job of keeping nature intact and adding a modern flair while still maintaining the integrity of Chickasaw heritage.

"It's not just what you see, it's what you taste, what you feel and what you experience," said Mr. Jackson.

The Cultural Center campus is also home to the Holisso Center, a world-class research and archive facility for Chickasaw and Oklahoma history.

This cutting edge, Smithsonian-caliber facility is a one-of-a kind place for the Chickasaw Nation, Native Americans and the entire community to reconnect and learn about their history and heritage. Many visitors have come to the Holisso Center to discover their family story.

Summer CCC Events

Throughout the summer several fun-filled, family-oriented and informational activities are scheduled.

From genealogy and scrapbooking workshops to stomp dance and stickball presentations, the Chickasaw Cultural Center has something for everyone.

Upcoming 2012 events include:

July 7 – Children's Festival

July 14 – Genealogy workshop

July 21 – Scrapbooking workshop

July 28 – Storytelling presentation

Aug. 4 – Book signing by Chickasaw Press authors

Aug. 11 - Genealogy workshop

Aug. 18 – Regalia Celebration

Sept. 1 – Labor day Celebration

Showing throughout July in the Anoli' Theatre is the family movie "Lilo & Stitch" and the native film "Powwow Highway." In August, the family movie "The Game Plan" is showing and the native film "Skins" will be featured.

In addition, cultural teachers are always on-hand to educate visitors on crafts such as beadwork, basketry and pottery, tanning hides, bow making and flute making. Guided group tours are also available upon request.

The Chickasaw Cultural Center is located at 867 Charles Cooper Memorial Road in Sulphur. For more information, please visit www.chickasawculturalcenter.com or call (580) 622-7130.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Eagle's name honors Mr. Spivey

Chickasaw Hall of Fame 2012 inductee Towana Spivey, left, was honored at the Chickasaw Cultural Center Memorial Day weekend when he learned this baby bald eagle would be named in his honor. "Towana" is the first bald eagle hatched in captivity by the Native American preservation group. The announcement came as Bill Voelker, right, founder of Sia, was presenting a program about eagles at the Cultural Center. Sia is a non-profit organization in Cyril, Okla., dedicated to preserving bald and golden eagles and other birds of prey as a means of preserving tribal culture, history and rituals. Sia, the Comanche Ethno-Ornithological Initiative, was founded 13 years ago with the mission of conserving not only the birds, but their spiritual connection to the Comanche way of life. Photo by Wakeah Vigil.

Tribe, Ada, ECU join to host National Night Out August 7

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation, the City of Ada, and East Central University will team up once again to host National Night Out (NNO) Tuesday, August 7 from 6-9 p.m. at the East Central University mall area.

National Night Out is a nationwide crime and drug prevention event designed to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts, and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

"National Night Out gives us an opportunity to recognize and honor the service our tribal, state and local agencies provide to keep our community safe," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said.

"This event also promotes positive interaction among our youth and local law enforcement. We are pleased to be a part of this special night."

The nationally- recognized Ada event gives people of the Ada community a chance to interact with law enforcement agencies, including Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police, Ada Police, and EMS crews. Local fire departments, search and rescue teams, and other agencies also participate in the event.

Food, entertainment, educational and informative booths, and fun games for kids will highlight the evening. Guest musicians and special demonstrations, including the Chickasaw Nation Martial Arts team, are slated for the event.

All activities are free and open to the public.

National Night Out was introduced by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) in 1984 as a means of increasing participation in neighbor watch participation. Since its inception, the nationwide program has grown to reach 37 million people.

Ada is one of over 15,000 communities around the nation and Canada, and on military bases expected to take part in the event.

Last year, more than 700 community members attended the Ada event, making the local NNO effort one of the largest in the state.

The 2008 Ada National Night Out was honored for the third consecutive year as one of the best in the United States. It was ranked #15 in cities with population less than 15,000 citizens.

For more information or to participate by providing an activity booth or demonstration, contact Colt Digby at (580) 310-6620.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Chickasaws, guests enjoy traditions at Chikasha Ittifama

George Lowe takes aim during the cornstalk shoot at the Chikasha Ittifama (Chickasaw Reunion). Mr. Lowe took first place.

Virgil Greenwood, a Chickasaw from Finley, Okla., at the 15th annual Chikasha Ittifama (Chickasaw Reunion) May 18-19, at Kullihoma. More than 1,000 Chickasaws and guests from across the country attended the reunion. Mike McKee

KULLIHOMA - Cherokee citizen George Lowe packed his yellow compact car with camping gear and drove 260 miles to participate in the 15th Annual Chikasha Ittifama Reunion, May 18-19 at Kullihoma Stomp Ground, near Ada.

Mr. Lowe traveled from Huntsville, Ark., to the reunion with a sole mission; to compete in the cornstalk shoot.

An ancient Indian game, archers shoot arrows at cornstalks placed a number of yards away. The score is determined by how many cornstalks the arrow pierces.

The trip was deemed a success when Mr. Lowe captured first place in the competition.

He said attending tribal events was his idea of relaxation.

"I enjoy it," he said. "I've been around stomp dances and powwows all of my life. It's like second nature to me."

Mr. Lowe was one of hundreds who came from considerable distances to celebrate Chickasaw culture, heritage and traditions during the reunion.

"Chikasha Reunion provides a great opportunity for Chickasaws to learn more about our culture, language and heritage and to share that knowledge with our friends," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said.

Friday's activities included a hamburger fry, stickball games and a social dance.

Kayla Burgess, a young Chickasaw from Ada, said she enjoyed the Chikasha Ittifama Reunion "because there is something for both the young people and elders to enjoy."

Kayla attended the reunion with her grandmother, Marie Frazier, of Allen, Okla.

"At the reunion you get to see people you haven't seen in a long time," said Mrs. Frazier.

Competitive Stickball was one of the highlights of this year's event, along with loksi races and demonstrations, including corn husk dolls, beadwork, moccasin making, arrows, and basket weaving.

Archery, squirrel stick throwing, a fishing derby, singing, storytelling and many other activities were offered at the two-day reunion.

A traditional meal, including pashofa, fry bread, salt meat, grape dumplings was also served.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Team Chickasaw stickball team, in gray t-shirts, takes on an opponent at the Chikasha Ittifama.

The Loksi (turtle) race was a big attraction for all ages at the annual Chikasha Ittifama (Chickasaw Reunion) May 18-19, at Kullihoma.

Chickasaw Language Sports Camp application deadline July 6

The application deadline for Himitta Alhiha Hochokoshkomo "The Youth are Playing" Language Sports Camp is Monday, July 6.

Open to Chickasaw youth grades 1-6, Himitta Alhiha Hochokoshkomo is designed to promote the use of the Chickasaw language in an interactive, athletic environment. Sports included in the camp are: To'li' (stickball), basketball, softball, volleyball, soccer, and numerous other games and activities.

The language sports camp will be conducted in various locations in the Chickasaw Nation including:

Monday, July 30 – Tishomingo, Chickasaw Community Center gym, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday, July 31 – Ardmore, Old Carter Seminary gym, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 1 – Sulphur, Chickasaw Cultural Center, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 2 - Norman, First American United Methodist Church, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 3 - Ada, Chickasaw Nation Family Life Center, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

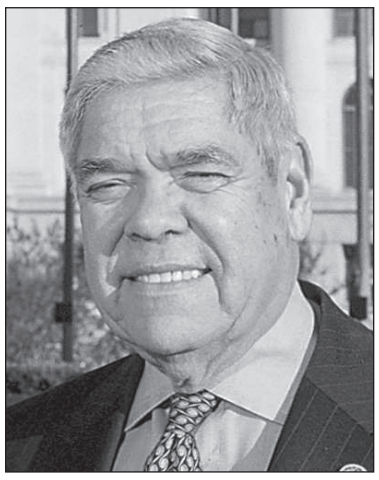
Saturday, Aug. 4 - Ada, Chickasaw Nation Family Life Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (7th to 12th grade.)

Participants must have transportation to and from camp. Camp participation is limited to 30 campers per day.

For an application and more information, contact Rachel Wedlow, Language Outreach Coordinator, at (580) 272-5540 or visit www.chickasaw.net/youthcamps.

A lifetime of service to Indian people

Neal McCaleb honored as 2012 Red Earth Ambassador



NEAL MCCALEB

While accepting the honor of Red Earth Ambassador of the Year, Neal McCaleb said that much of the tremendous progress tribes have made in recent decades could be traced to President Nixon's self-determination policy.

Mr. McCaleb accepted the award June 7 at the Skirvin Hilton in Oklahoma City.

"There have been all kinds of Indian policies – treaty policies, reservation policies, termination policies, termination policies" Mr. McCaleb said. "(Nixon) said 'let's try to get the bureaucrats out of the tribal businesses and let them run it themselves.' That's been a huge success.

"The tribes that have gone on their own to develop their own economic future and self-sufficiency have made a tremendous impact not only for the tribe, but here in Oklahoma, the economy of the state."

He also gave credit to Red Earth for its role in those advances.

"The help, the focus, the devotion that has been placed on tribal art, on tribal culture by Red Earth is also a huge portion of that advancement," he said.

The Red Earth Ambassador of the Year award was founded in 1991 to recognize individuals, not necessarily of Native American descent, who have made significant contributions in presenting a positive image of American Indians.

A professional engineer and Chickasaw citizen, Mr. McCaleb has served his state and nation in many capacities bringing recognition to himself, the Chickasaw Nation, and all Native Americans. He has been an advocate for Native American interests and well-being his entire adult life as exemplified by the positions of authority he has held.

He has received appointments from four Governors and three Presidents providing evidence he is held in high esteem both nationally and locally. His lifetime of achievements has made a significant impact in providing and promoting a positive image for all Native Americans.

"It would be difficult to find anyone more deserving of this recognition," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. "Neal has worked tirelessly to help enhance the quality of life of American Indians for decades. He is a credit to the Chickasaw Nation and to the state of Oklahoma."

Mr. McCaleb's accomplishments and awards include:

· An appointment by President George W. Bush to Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (2001-2003)

· Appointment to Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation (1995-2001), by Gov. Frank Keating

· Named Director of Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Director of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (1995-2001) by Gov. Frank Keating

· Named Oklahoma's first Secretary of Transportation (1987-1993), by Gov. Henry Bellmon

· Elected Minority Leader of Oklahoma House of Representatives (1979-1983)

· Elected to Oklahoma House of Representatives (1975-1983)

· Served on the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission (1967-1972)

· Appointed by President Richard Nixon to the National Council on Indian Opportunity (1972-1974)

· Appointed to the President's Commission on Reservation Economies (1983-1984) by President Ronald Reagan

· Appointed to the Board of Regents for the University of Arts and Sciences (2005 – present), by Gov. Brad Henry

· Oklahoma Transportation Center Interim Executive Director (2006-2008)

· Advisory Board for Community Development Finance Institutions for the U.S. Department of the Treasury (2008 – present)

· 2011 Oklahoma State University Distinguished Alumni Award

· 2011 Chickasaw Hall of Fame

· 2011 Native American Newsmaker of the Year.

The Red Earth Ambassador award is represented by a bronze sculpture created by Red Earth Festival award-winning artist Troy Anderson.

For more than 30 years, the 501 (c) 3 non-profit Red Earth, Inc has been recognized as the region's premier organization for advancing the understanding and continuation of Native American traditional and contemporary culture and arts. The Red Earth Museum & Gallery, at 6 Santa Fe Plaza in downtown Oklahoma city, hosts a diverse and changing schedule of traveling exhibitions and is custodian of a permanent collection of more than 1,400 items of fine art, pottery, basketry, textiles and beadwork – including the Deupree Cradleboard Collection, one of the finest individual collections of its kind in North America.

CONTRIBUTED BY Tony Choate, Media Relations.

Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Kauger presents Neal McCaleb the medallion designating Mr. McCaleb Red Earth Ambassador of the Year.

Chickasaw artists recognized for excellence at Red Earth Festival

Chickasaw blade smith Daniel Worcester won second place in the diversified category with "Arrow Man" and second place in the cultural items category division with "Bird Hatchet" at the 2012 Red Earth Festival. Picture by Marcus Milligan.

Several Chickasaw artists were recognized at the art competitions conducted at the Annual Red Earth Festival. The festival was June 8-10 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

Chickasaw blade smith Daniel Worcester won second place in the diversified category with "Arrow Man" and second place in the cultural items category division with "Bird Hatchet."

Chickasaw artists Brent Greenwood, Lance Straughn and Jerry Riddle also participated in the adult competition.

Four young Chickasaw artists participated in the James H. and Madalynne Norick Foundation Youth Art Competition.

Me-Way-Seh Greenwood won first place Division 1 in beading and Michaela Milligan earned first place Division 2 in textiles. Reina Greenwood and Mercedes Milligan also participated in the competition.

Young Choctaw artists who participate in the Chickasaw Nation After School Arts Program also placed or participated in Red Earth, including: Samantha Reynolds, third place Division 2, painting/graphics; Nayukpa Ramsey, second place Division 1, pottery and participant Sarah Reynolds.

For more information on the Red Earth Organization, visit www.redearth.org.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Top high school juniors

Youth Leadership Oklahoma tours Chickasaw Cultural Center

Blow gun demonstrations at the Chickasaw Nation Cultural Center provided Youth Leadership Oklahoma students insights to Chickasaw culture.

Jeremy Wallace, cultural instructor at the Chickasaw Cultural Center, demonstrates stickball to a group of Youth Leadership Oklahoma students.

In June, 50 Youth Leadership Oklahoma students toured the Chickasaw Cultural Center. Among these high schools juniors was one Chickasaw, Hannah Henry, of Altus, Okla.

"This is my first trip to the Cultural Center," Hannah said. "It's beautiful. The buildings, landscaping and exhibits are great. I didn't know much about my culture until I came here."

Hannah, who is part of Youth Leadership Oklahoma Class XII, participated in a week-long journey of discovery across Oklahoma. As one of the top juniors in the state, she represents the future leaders of her generation.

Lee Anne Stone, youth director of the Leadership Oklahoma, said the program focused on top students.

"Bringing together the top 50 high school juniors from across the state, Youth Leadership Oklahoma shows them the beauty, treasures, and businesses of our great state," Ms. Stone said. "This program is important because these students are the future of Oklahoma and will be leaders throughout their lives. We want to show how amazing Oklahoma is as a place to live, work and go to school."

While at the Chickasaw Cultural Center, students spent the morning on a guided tour of the Chickasha Poya Exhibit Hall and Chickasaw Village. In the Holisso Research Center, they participated in hands-on demonstrations of blow guns and a stickball. This was followed with a traditional stomp dance in the Anoli' Theater. Students were not shy when it came time to dance the Four Corners and Snake dances with the Chickasaw Nation stomp dance demonstrators.

"My favorite part of the tour was the blow gun demonstration," Hannah said. "I was able to participate in the demonstration by shooting at targets."

The morning came to a conclusion with a traditional lunch served in Aaittafa' Gathering Room. Indian tacos, pashofa and grape dumplings were served. Jeremy Wallace, cultural instructor, spoke as the students ate. Mr. Wallace told the traditional story of how the Chickasaw people learned the art of flute making. He then demonstrated songs on the flute.

"I am proud to be Chickasaw," Hannah said as she waited to get on the bus to head to Tulsa and continue her activities with Youth Leadership Oklahoma. "I have told all my friends about the opportunities the tribe provides. It is cool to be able to say that I am Chickasaw," Hannah said.

Hannah Henry

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

Connections

Connections is a weekly radio program on KCNP that covers a variety of topics and issues.

Each week, special guests are invited to discuss their areas of experience and expertise with host Brian Brashier

Connections airs live on KCNP at 11 a.m. CST each Wednesday on 89.5 FM or streaming online at www.kcnpradio.org.

This month on Connections:

Independence Day! – July 4

No live show this week.

"Horseshoe School "– July 11

Did you know that the 2nd week in July is National Farriers Week? We do – and we'll have a representative from the Oklahoma Horseschooling School talk about equine care and the art of horse shoeing.

"CASA- A Resource for Children" – July 18

The National CASA Association is a network of 955 programs that are recruiting, training and supporting volunteers to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom and other settings. Find out more about this important organization this week.

"Disaster Awareness and Preparedness" – July 25

When disaster strikes, do you know what to do? We'll talk with a representative from a local relief organization who will tell us how to prepare for various disasters.

Listeners are invited to call the show's toll-free line at 1-TLK-895-KCNP (1-855-895-5267) to talk to each week's guest.

Questions and comments for guests can also be emailed tofeedback@kcnpradio.org.

This month on CNTV

- We begin our Young Artists profiles featuring a series of Chickasaw youth whose work was displayed in New York City this past spring.
- CNTV's coverage of the many summer camps continues. Find out all the great adventures Chickasaw youth are having in this month!
- CNTV will also introduce an exciting new prescription program for non-Native American spouses of Chickasaw citizens.

Join us for the eighth annual
CHICKASAW SUMMER ARTS ACADEMY (CSAA)
"Festival of the Arts"
Saturday, July 28, 2012
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center
East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma
For more information, call the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities at (580) 272-5520 or email csaa@chickasaw.net.

Tate, Ayala, SO PERCUSSION

Chamber Music Festival features top musicians

Chickasaw composer-in-residence for the Chickasaw Nation, Jerod Tate, left, with Yaqui classical guitarist Gabriel Ayala.

Taylor James, Senior at Oklahoma City University, practices in the lounge of the McSwain Theater after his master class session.

ADA, Okla. - The historic McSwain Theater hosted the Second Annual Chickasaw Chamber Music Festival June 1-3. The three-day event combined the diverse talents of Chickasaw classical composer and conductor, Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, NAMMY winner Yaqui guitarist Gabriel Ayala, Yale-trained group SO PERCUSSION and the Southwest's leading professional modern chamber music ensemble, Voices of Change. Master classes were conducted by performers to teach aspiring students their craft.

"The Chickasaw Chamber Music Festival is a way to emphasize Native American classical music," Mr. Tate said. "It demonstrates how Native and Western cultures are blending and influencing each other."

Conducted in the McSwain Theater, the festival allows professionals and students the opportunity to teach and learn from one another, with nightly performances for the community.

Many of the top names among American Indian composers and performers of modern classical music took part in the festival. Performances and instruction were provided by Mr. Tate, Mr. Ayala and members of Brooklyn-based SO PERCUSSION.

Each afternoon, master classes designed to critique and encourage students were conducted. Students learned from the artists featured in that evening's performance.

"Having master classes on the same stage as we perform is great," said SO PERCUSSION member Eric Beach. "We are used to teaching in smaller rooms. The McSwain really shows the dynamic range the instruments are able to produce to the students."

Taylor Jones, a senior at Oklahoma City University, participated in the master classes for a second year. He received an hour-long, one-on-one guitar instruction with Mr. Ayala, followed by peer discussion.

"This is my second year at the master classes," Mr. Jones said. "I have been playing for nine years and am always learning something new. I plan on becoming an eye doctor, but I don't think I can ever stop playing the guitar."

Mr. Ayala performed for the second year at the Chickasaw Chamber Music Festival.

"I am honored to be asked to participate again this year," said Mr. Ayala. "The Chickasaw Chamber Music Festival is unique because it will highlight major Native American performers and show the various things we are capable of."

Voices of Change, the chamber music ensemble from Dallas, performed music from Native American Composers David Yeagley (Comanche), George Quincy (Choctaw), Jerod Tate (Chickasaw), Trevor Reed (Hopi) and Raven Chacon (Diné).

Brenda Kingery, Chickasaw, is the 2012 featured visual artist for the Chickasaw Chamber Music Festival.

Her commissioned painting "Kullihoma Lights" was on display in the main lobby of the McSwain Theater during performances.

For more information on the Chickasaw Chamber Music Festival visit www.chickasawmusicfestival.org.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

'Kullihoma Lights'

Kingery Commissioned Artist for Chamber Music Festival

Brenda Kingery Commissioned Artist for 2012 Chickasaw Chamber Music Fesitval.

Chickasaw artist Brenda Kingery is the 2012 commissioned artist for the second annual Chickasaw Chamber Music Festival. Taking inspiration from the music, culture, history and experiences of the Chickasaw people, Ms. Kingery has captured the essence of the creative spirit of the Chickasaws in her commissioned piece, "Kullihoma Lights."

Drawing from conversations with Chickasaw poet Rebecca Hatcher Travis, master textile artist Margaret Roach Wheeler, and historic preservationist LaDonna Brown, Ms. Kingery employed imagery and descriptions of traditional Chickasaw arts and crafts to influence her work for the Chickasaw Chamber Music Festival.

"The center of the painting, silver leaf, represents the moon—a woman's face—as she sings to the Chickasaw people," Ms. Kingery said. "The descriptions of early of Chickasaw ancestors and the colors of early buckskins, the finger weavings and the darker pigments of natural dyes moved me to reveal those textures on the canvas, bringing life and depth. Red tones represent the face color worn by the dancers, expressing energy and emotion."

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

Chickasaw Nation Ada Senior Citizens Gift Shop

1005 Chamber Loop • Ada, OK • (580) 436-1007

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

New shipment of Southwest watches, rings, jewelry and lots of Chickasaw items. Shop the Ada Senior Citizens Gift Shop for all your gift giving items!

Chickasaw athletes compete at Jim Thorpe Games

The Jim Thorpe Games feature young Indian athletes from across the country.

Following is the list of Chickasaw athletes who received medals at the Jim Thorpe Games. Also listed are the names of the exhibition stickball team, Tvshka Homa.

Track and Field

U18 Boys Cross Country - Chase Busik (3rd place)

U18 Boys 16 Meter Run - Chase Busik (2nd place)

U18 Boys 100 Meter Dash - Mason Girdley (1st place)

U18 Boys 200 Meter Dash - Mason Girdley (1st place)

U18 Boys 800 Meter Run - Chase Busik (4th place)

U18 Boys Long Jump - Mason Girdley (1st place)

Martial Arts

5 and Under

Kyrah Correll (Beginner) - Forms: 2nd place; Sparring: 2nd place

6-7 Years

Macey Eck (Beginner) - Forms: 1st place; Sparring: 2nd place

8-9 Years

Rebekah Eck (Intermediate) - Forms: 1st place; Sparring: 1st place

Melvin Manely (Intermediate) - Forms: 3rd place; Sparring: 3rd place

Isabella McGinely (Beginner) - Forms: 1st place; Sparring: 1st place

Peyton Ray (Beginner) - Forms: 3rd place; Sparring: 3rd place

Rachael Scott (Beginner) - Forms: 2nd place; Sparring: 2nd place

Ariel Snodgrass (Intermediate) - Forms: 2nd place; Sparring: 2nd place

10-11 Years

Ethan Eck (Intermediate) - Forms: 1st place; Sparring: 1st place

Talyn Manley (Intermediate) - Forms: 2nd place; Sparring: 1st place

Alyssa McCullar (Advanced) - Forms: 1st place; Sparring: 2nd place

Kyler Ray (Intermediate) - Forms: 2nd place; Sparring: 2nd place

11-12 Years

Gabriella Padilla (Beginner) - Forms: 1st place; Sparring: 1st place

12-13 Years

Dale Shackleford (Advanced) - Forms: 1st place; Sparring: 1st place

Charlie Walker (Beginner) - Forms: 1st place; Sparring: 1st place

14-15 Years

Katy Shackleford (Advanced) - Forms: 1st place; Sparring: 1st place

16-17 Years

Ezra Johnson (Intermediate) - Forms: 1st place; Sparring: 1st place

18-19 Years

Brooke Shackleford (Advanced) - Forms: 2nd place; Sparring: 1st place

Skye Shackleford (Advanced) - Forms: 1st place; Sparring:

SEE **CHICKASAW ATHLETES**, PAGE 13

Native Rain takes silver at Thorpe Games

Native Rain fastpitch softball team finished second in the Jim Thorpe Native American Games Women's Fastpitch tournament. Native Rain consisted of tribes representing the Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Creek Nation and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. Front row from left, Alexis Lewis, Sha Ingram, Kobi Crossley. Middle row, Amanda Ingram, Olivia Duty, Alyx Ingram, Logan Huey, Brece Hamman, Dakota Ingram, Michelle Ingram-Hamilton. Back row, coaches James Ingram, Darrin Ingram, Jimbo Crossley. Not pictured, Augusta Duty.

Net assets climb to record level, $1.412 billion

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and the tribe's BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Chickasaw Enterprises. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of the tribal operation, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Businesses revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes, sales revenue at convenience, travel plazas and tobacco stores, rent and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, *Chickasaw Times* and Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices. Expenditure for education includes education scholarship as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include senior citizens sites, eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending May 31, 2012

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled $12.1 million for the month and $102.3 million year-to-date. Expenditures were $6.8 million for the month and $65.6 year-to-date.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes through May totaled $740.7 million. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was $197.5 million year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was $100.6 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At May 31, 2012, the tribal government funds had $176.7 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, $19.9 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had $188.5 million in cash and investments which is reserved for accounts payable and business operations.

As of May 31, 2012, tribal operations, excluding federal program funding, had net assets of $1.412 billion compared to $1.382 billion at March 31, 2012 or an increase of $30 million.

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Eight Months Ended May 31, 2012

	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	5,481,838	740,765,921	746,247,759
Transfers from businesses to tribal government	96,865,507	(96,865,507)	-
Total funds available	102,347,345	643,900,414	746,247,759
Expenditures			
General government	7,660,590		7,660,590
Legislature	1,577,560		1,577,560
Judiciary	624,473		624,473
Education	12,547,184		12,547,184
Heritage Preservation	9,166,085		9,166,085
Health	13,511,675		13,511,675
Youth and Family Services	5,747,413		5,747,413
Nutrition Programs	3,584,995		3,584,995
Regulatory	5,225,982		5,225,982
Assistance Programs	5,979,692		5,979,691
Gaming expense		397,598,492	397,598,492
Other businesses' expense		145,696,872	145,696,872
Total expenditures	65,625,648	543,295,364	608,921,012
Increase in net assets	36,721,697	100,605,050	137,326,747
Beginning net assets	595,076,108	680,428,193	1,275,504,301
Ending net assets	631,797,805	781,033,243	1,412,831,049

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Net Assets
May 31, 2012

	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	176,730,565	188,489,590	365,220,154
Receivables	37,466,508	55,650,855	93,117,363
Inventory	153,044	6,288,937	6,441,981
Prepaid expenses		17,739,629	17,739,629
Other Assets		2,481,939	2,481,939
Fixed assets	418,253,960	649,550,466	1,067,804,426
Less payables	(806,271)	(139,168,173)	(139,974,444)
Net Assets	631,797,805	781,033,243	1,412,831,049

CHICKASAW ATHLETES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

2nd place

Adult Volleyball

1st place team: Blockheads

Members: Lori Hamilton, Monica Fulsom

Women's Fastpitch:

2nd place team: Native Rain

Members: Alyxandria Ingram (17), Sha Ingram (15), Dakota Ingram (18), Michelle Ingram-Hamilton (29), Amanda Ingram (22)

Kobi Crosley (15), Alexis Lewis (18), Logan Huey (18)

U14 Girls Softball

1st place team: Oklahoma Red Race

Members: Aubrey Freeman (13), Peri Cole (14), Cheyenne Woodward (14), Morgan Woodward (13)

3rd place team: Oklahoma Red Warriors

Member: Kristin Wallace

U12 Boys Basketball

3rd place team: Oklahoma Impact

Members: Elijah Gibson, Deland Cobb, Dakota Johnson, Chabon Anderson, Kobe Burgess, Tryston Ingram

U14 Girls Basketball

1st place team: Oklahoma Choctaws

Member: Kristin Wallace

U14 Boys Basketball

2nd place team: Weekend Warriors

Members: Connor Williamson, Dylan Williamson, Matthew Hilinski, Haydokeyo Tsosie

U16 Boys Basketball

2nd place team: Shades of Red

Members: Kele Parnacher, Kanan Wisdom, Jacon Birdheads, Osawhv Frazier, Sefaun White (Papi)

B14 Golf

Logan Matthews (2nd place)

Spencer Upton (1st place)

B18 Golf

Matthew Henry (1st place)

Austin McNeil (2nd place)

R.J. Trainham

Eric Fish

Dakota Green

W18 Golf

Delaney Daniel (1st place)

Stickball

Exhibition team: Tvshka Homa

Members: Jeremy Wallace, Clovis Hamilton, Ric Greenwood, Chance Factor, Ashley Wallace, Brandon White Eagle, Trevor Clark, Rick Miller, Derrick Barrett, Tyra Shackleford, Catie Newport, Wakeah Vigil, Levi Hart, Gerald Hart, TJ Clark, Jesse Clark, Jonas Manley, Clay Moore, Leslie Westberry, Tony Culungo, Lance Wallace, Sunhawk Hill, Larry Seawright, Michael Worcester, Randy Shackleford, Chad Culungo, Ronnie Hicks, Ryan Tate, Josh Alexander, Terrence Underwood, Justin Miller, John Paul Underwood, Boomer Factor.

The Thorpe Games were originally conceived as a bi-annual event. However, following requests from coaches and athletes, "core events," including the All-Star football game, will be played annually.

Minor sports will continue to be conducted bi-annually.

McSwain Theatre
Showcase Featuring
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7:30 P.M. SATURDAY, JULY 21
JOIN THE FUN WITH THIS '50s & '60s THEMED SHOW!
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Indian Falls Creek Camp set for July 29 - Aug. 2

DAVIS, Okla. - Over 2,500 Native Americans will gather Sunday evening, July 29 for the start of Indian Falls Creek Baptist Assembly 2012.

The weekly general camp fee is $55. Children under six may attend for $15. Campers who attend on a daily basis will pay $5 before 5 p.m., and $10 to spend the night.

The Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center, administered by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, is located in the heart of the beautiful Arbuckle Mountains of southern Oklahoma. Falls Creek is a year-around conference center with summers dedicated to youth encampments.

This year marks the 65th years for Indian Falls Creek Camp. The camp offers programming for the entire family including sunrise service and devotion, and morning Bible study and Bible conferences.

Each afternoon features recreational activities including softball, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, mush ball and golf.

For more information about Indian Falls Creek, visit www.indianfallscreek.net or contact Victor Cope, Executive Director, Indian Falls Creek, at NdNRev@aol.com, (405) 295-4226.

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Todd Bell
Chickasaw Citizens
Rick Bell

Court Advocates now available in Ardmore, Ada and Purcell

Court Advocate Services are now available in Ardmore, Ada, and Purcell to assist Native Americans with legal problems.

To make an appointment call 1-800-479-1459.

This is a service provided by the tribal court system.

BIRTHS

Keelen Jonah Phillip Keck

Morgan Keck and Summer Bowdler announce the birth of their son, Keelen Jonah Phillip Keck. Keelen was born May 25, 2012 at Valley View Regional Hospital, Ada, Okla.

He weighed 8 lbs., and measured 19 1/2 inches at birth.

He is the maternal grandson of Doris Barrett and Bryan Bowdler, of Ada. He is the great-grandson of the late Emry and Edith Holt, Dan Bowdler and the late Geraldine Bowdler. He is the nephew of Shanda Christianson and Tyler Barrett and cousin to Braylee and Essence.

He is the paternal grandson of Stormy Busby and Denny Boyd, of Davis, Okla. Jason and Melanie Keck, of Sulphur, Okla.

He is the nephew of Sasha Keck, of Roff, Okla.

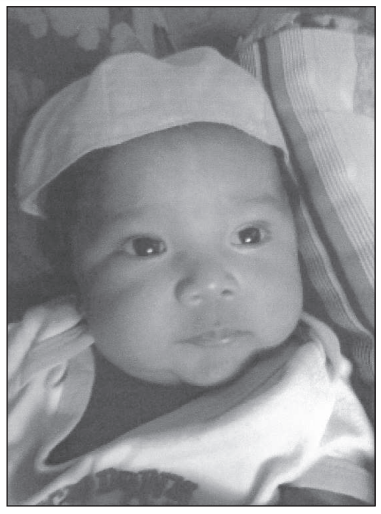
He is the great-grandson of Don and Jeanne Keck, of Roff, the late Retha Cravatt and Larry Cravatt, of Ada.

Jacque Neville Tompkins

Alexander Jules and Bethany Tompkins announce the birth of their son, Jacque Neville Tompkins. Neville was born 4:08 a.m., January 10, 2012 at Phoenix.

He weighed 6 lbs., 5 oz., and measured 18.5 inches at birth.

He is the grandson of Scott and Sheila Miller and Peter and Veronica Tompkins.



Gage Lee Ground

Gage Lee Ground was born at 10:14 a.m., May 5, 2012 at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center.

He weighed 9 lbs., 6 oz., and measured 19 inches at birth.

He is the son of Candice Wisdom and Ricky Ground.

He is the grandson of Noah Wisdom Jr., and Louise Shields.

He is the great-grandson of Lillie and the late Noah Wisdom Sr., and the late Minnie and Joseph Shields.

He is the nephew of Jay (Skip) Wisdom, Kevin Wisdom and cousin to Kanan Wisdom.

Bryce Davis graduates Pre-K in Belton, Texas

Bryce Davis

Bryce Davis graduated from Peanut Gallery Pre-K, Belton, Texas, May 25.

Bryce is the son of Tommy and Ginger Davis.

He is the grandson of Carolyn and Tommy Sr. Davis., and the great-grandson of Charles and Betty Davis.

BIRTHDAY

Alice Cragg, taken at her 90th birthday celebration.

Alice Cragg's senior picture from the 1930 Chilocco Senior Yearbook.

Alice Cragg celebrates 100 birthday in Texas

In early June family and friends gathered in New Braunfels, Texas to celebrate the 100th birthday of a very special member of the Chickasaw Nation, Alice Cragg.

Alice Ella Farris Cragg was born June 4, 1912 at Mead, Okla., to George and Lillian Alma (Staton) Farris. She was the eldest of nine children. The family moved to Texas.

When she was a senior in high school she and her brother, Amos, were enrolled in the vocational school at Chilocco, Okla., where she graduated in 1930.

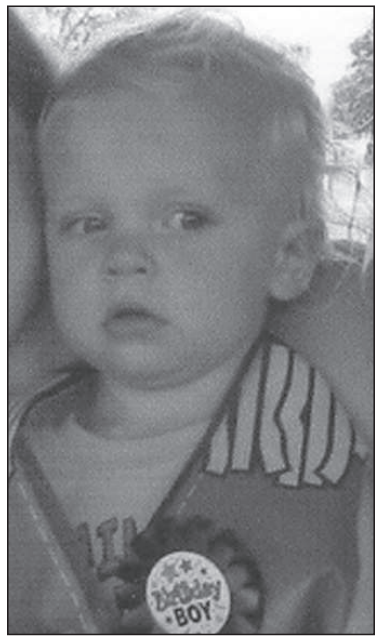
She has many cherished memories of her year at Chilocco. She was in Home 2 for adult girls and roomed with two sisters from Nebraska: Grace and Mary Cline. She remembers the delicious bread pudding and rhubarb pie that was served on Sundays. She and one of her friends, Eria May Socey, kept in touch for 50 years before Eria passed away.

When Mrs. Cragg, who is fondly called Sister by her family, returned to Carrizo Springs, Texas, she completed her senior year and graduated in 1931. She remained in Carrizo Springs where she married Aaron Cragg and they had a daughter, Jana.

She was very active in her church and the Home Demonstration Club. An avid reader and lover of books, she was instrumental in establishing the first public library in Dimmit County. Sponsored by the Home Demonstration Club, the library was a collection of donated books housed in a small room at the county court house.

Later, she was a staunch supporter for raising funds to establish the beautiful Dimmit County Public Library and Wade House Memorial Museum.

Mrs. Cragg lives in a retirement home near her daughter in San Antonio where she enjoys painting, sewing, reading and keeping in touch with family and friends.



Kaydon Shane Hedrick

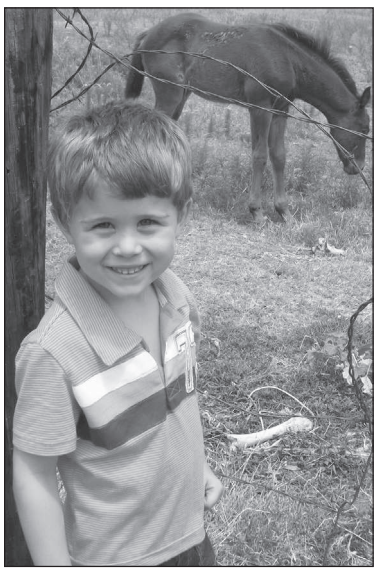
Kaydon Shane Hedrick, of Yukon, Okla., turned two years old May 25, 2012. He was honored with a "*Toy Story*" theme birthday party at the community center park in Yukon.

Special guests attending were his parents, Landon and Lauren Hedrick; Grandparents, Terry and Diana Beaver, and Shane and LaDana Hedrick, all of Yukon; Great-grandparents; Marie Beaver, of Oklahoma City, Ronnie and Kathy Hall, of El Reno, Okla., Donna Novey, of Okarche, Okla.; Great-great-grandparents, Nora Buckner, of Edmond, Okla.; Aunts, Michelle Beaver, Dawn Robisson, Debbie Landers, of Yukon; Uncles, Dylan Hedrick, Austin Beaver, Kimbo Gerlich, of Yukon, T.K. Robisson, of Mustang, Okla., and George Beaver, Oklahoma City; cousins, The Ramseys, of Stillwater, Okla.; and special little friends, Kaedon Zane, of Oklahoma City.

Kaydon is the great-great-grandson of the late Pauline T. Williams.

We all love you Kaydon and enjoyed your party. Happy second birthday, Kaydon.

You are a big boy now!



Brayden Webb

Brayden Webb turned four years old June 7 and enjoyed an early birthday celebration which included strawberry cake, lemonade and Buzz Lightyear.

He fished, played ball and played with his new friend Cheyenne. He also visited his new 7 week old baby colt, rode a horse and went camping with his dad.

Brayden is the son of Bryan and Courtnie Webb.

He is grandson of Susan and David Ledford and Anthony Webb.

Mary (Harris) Heck Reunion

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
July 8, 2012

Centrahoma Community Building

Bring a dessert or drink

For more information call Marilyn Morgan at (580) 436-4160.

BIRTHDAY

Wesley Allen Ridenhour

Happy 13th birthday to Wesley Allen Ridenhour on July 16.

You have grown up right before our eyes into a handsome young man. We are very proud of you and all that you have accomplished for yourself.

Wesley is the son of James and Amy Cox.

He is the grandson of Al and Linda Morton, and the great-grandson of Nathaniel Thomas.

We all love you very much.

Happy Birthday!

Billy Jack, middle, turned 70 June 16, 2012. Also pictured is his sister, Valla Dee, right, and Granny Jack at Rock Creek near Dougherty, Okla., in 1942. Billy Jack was born at Sulphur, Okla., in 1942. He is the son the late Bill Jack, formerly of Dougherty/Sulphur. His three sons, Tripp, Troy and Tyler and wife, Darolyn, live at Ada, Okla. His brothers, Jerry Jack, Walter Jack, both of Arizona, and his sister, Valla Dee Jack Egge, of Hurley, N.M., wish him a very happy birthday!

Happy Birthday 2!

Barbara Ann Jack will celebrate her 75th birthday July 10, 2012. She was born at Sulphur, Okla., in 1937 to Tom and Dorothy Dobbs Jack. Five generations of Chickasaws pictured above include her grandfather, Walter Jack, original enrollee; father, Tom Jack; great-grandmother, Sugar Johnson Jack, original enrollee; Barbara Ann Jack Myers holding daughter, Kathy Myers.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

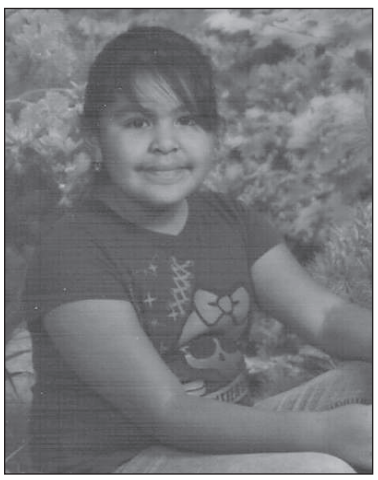
Reese Hamilton

Reese Hamilton named Indian Ed top student

Fifth grader Reese Hamilton was recently selected 2011-2012 Ada City Schools Indian Education Student of the Year for Willard Grade Center. He is a member of the Chickasaw Honor Club and Principal's Honor Roll.

Reese was also voted as having the best manners, best athlete and best dressed by his classmates in Mrs. Forrester's class. He loves to play soccer, basketball, football and enjoys playing video games with his friends.

Reese is the son of proud parents of Randall and Christina Hamilton.



Santana Raqel Strayhorn

Santana to set to enter Durant Intermediate

Santana Raquel Strayhorn recently completed third grade at Northwest Heights Elementary School, Durant, Okla. She was named to the Superintendent's Honor Roll for Spring 2012.

Santana was also in the Mileage Walking Club, American Heart Association Jump-a-Thon 50-point Accelerated Reading Club and 400-500 point Accelerated Math Club for which she received awards.

Santana was chosen a for the Terrific Kids for the month of February by the Kiwanis Club of Durant.

She also is playing softball in the Durant City League this summer. Her team is the Durant Lady Lions. She splits playing first base and shortstop.

She will be entering Durant Intermediate School this upcoming year.

Santana is the daughter of Russell and Lorenda Strayhorn and the granddaughter of William Pettigrew and the late Martha Yahola Strayhorn.

Ashlyn Hutchings

Chickasaw cheerleader on DC jv pom squad

Chickasaw student Ashlyn Hutchings, of Edmond, Okla., has been named to the Deer Creek Middle School eighth grade Junior Varsity Pom and Spirit Squad for the upcoming school year 2012-2013.

The students had a week to practice selected cheers and dance routines. The closed tryouts were Monday, May 14.

The cheerleaders attend the Deer Creek Cheer Camp July 23 – 26. Ashlyn is also attending the Chickasaw Nation Champions Cheer Clinic in Ada on July 6-7th.

She and fellow cheerleaders will perform at football and basketball games throughout the school year.

Ashlyn is the daughter of Kevin and Terri Hutchings, of Edmond. She is the granddaughter of Evelyn Hutchings, of Norman, Okla., and Terry and Jeanie Hutchings, of Calera, Okla. Ashlyn has two siblings Trevin and Kaelan Hutchings, of Edmond.

Skylar Addicks

Skylar Addicks on TCU Academic Dean's List

Chickasaw student and Wylie (TX) High School graduate Skylar Addicks has just completed her first year at Texas Christian University. Miss Addicks was named to the Academic Dean's List for both the fall and spring semester and maintained a grade point average of 3.969. She was appointed a community leader in the campus-wide initiative Community Renewal; received the TCU Dean Scholarship; was named to the Society of Women Engineers; nominated into Alpha Lambda Delta honor society; and was one of the 34 chosen TCU Connections Mentors our of 120 applicants.

Her family is very proud and knew her accomplishments would extend into college due to her high school success in both academics and leadership.

Miss Addicks ranked sixth of her 661-student class. She graduated with the honor of being a Miss Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Award recipient, a very prestigious award in Wylie which is only given to the students who completed all four years of high school in Wyline and who are ranked the top 22 of their graduating class.

Miss Addick's extracurricular activities at WHS included National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Student Leadership and Mentoring captain, varsity acapella choir and show choir member, choir secretary, junior varsity cheer captain and vice president of student council.

She is the great-granddaughter of Marlene and Leroy Hoffard; granddaughter of Glenda and Jimmy Beach; and daughter of John and Theresa Addicks, all of Wylie.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Marcella Burke

UHouston law student Marcella Burke named Harvard Journal editor

University of Houston Law Center student Marcella Burke, a Chickasaw, has been selected as an editor on the Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy 2012 Editorial Board.

An editor of the Houston Law Review, Ms. Burke is the first Law Center student and first Texan, along with a University of Texas student also chosen this year, to serve on the board.

The student-edited Journal is published three times annually and is considered the nation's leading forum for conservative and libertarian legal scholarship. The Board of Advisors includes two U.S. Senators and four U.S. Courts of Appeal Judges. The journal will contain articles presented at the 30th Annual Federalist Society Student Symposium held in March at Stanford University Law School.

Ms. Burke is vice-president of the Law Center's Federalist Society chapter and is research assistant to Professor Sapna Kumar. Ms. Burke has won nine scholarships in law school, including the University of Houston System Award for Distinguished Service to Women. She is a member of the Order of the Barons and the Garland R. Walker American Inn of Court and serves as a tutor for legal writing.

Upon graduation, Ms. Burke will work at the Houston office of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.

Drew Harrison

Chickasaw hurler Drew Harrison leads OU to NCAA regional victory

A Chickasaw athlete has recently made a big splash in the NCAA college baseball tournament.

Drew Harrison, a 6'4" 255-lb. ballplayer from Waxahachie, Texas, pitched the game of his life to lead the University of Oklahoma Sooners baseball team to a 5-2 win over Appalachian State University in the Charlottesville (VA) Regional.

The interesting thing, other than the fact Mr. Harrison pitched six strong innings, is that the Chickasaw had played most of the season at first base. He was moved to the bullpen only recently.

With the win, the Sooners moved on to the Super Regional against the University of South Carolina.

"It's a great story," OU head coach Sunny Golloway said. "Man, Drew stepped up big time."

Mr. Harrison was originally recruited by OU as a power-hitting first baseman. As his freshman season moved along, he had real trouble finding consistent playing time. He even considered transferring to another school.

However, after talking with Coach Golloway, Mr. Harrison decided to stay at OU.

"He said, 'Coach, I'm a Sooner. I'm not going anywhere,'" Coach Golloway said. "I remember it striking me that, 'What a character kid, in this day and age.'"

During his pitching performance against Appalachian State, Mr. Harrison allowed just three hits and struck out four in his six innings of work.

"It was a great feeling to be able to pitch the game that takes us to a Super Regional," Mr. Harrison said. "I just wanted to throw strikes."

After the game, Coach Golloway told Mr. Harrison how proud he was of him.

"In this day and age when character really needs to shine through, (Drew's) shined through," Coach Golloway said. "His character was rewarded."

Mr. Harrison is the son of Danny and Kim Harrison, of Waxahachie. His given name is Andrew Lucas Harrison, and he is named for his great-great-uncle who was a Chickasaw athlete from Tishomingo, Okla. Haskell Lucas played football for Murray State College in Tishomingo. Mr. Lucas was the first of four generations of Lucas/Harrison men to play college sports.

Earlier in June, Mr. Harrison was selected in the 23rd round of the Major League Baseball draft by the Detroit Tigers.

Robert Steven Warren

Robert Steven Warren tabbed to play with Chicago Symphony

EVANSTON, Ill. – A Chickasaw musician has recently performed with a well-known symphony orchestra.

Robert Steven Warren is a first-year master student at Northwestern University in Evanston. In May, Mr. Warren was chosen to play with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He has also been accepted to attend the Academy of the West this summer.

Mr. Warren is the son of Wayne "Fuzzy" and Gwen Warren.

Chickasaw student Della Stuckey takes flight with NASA Space Grant Consortium program

Della Stuckey

A Madill (OK) High School Chickasaw student has recently completed a student flight program at the University of Oklahoma.

Della Stuckey was one of 21 fourth- through 12th-grade students from across Oklahoma and Kansas to participate in the Oklahoma NASA Space Grant Consortium's Student Flight Program. The program was centered at Max Westheimer Airport in Norman, Okla.

Students completed ground school with University of Oklahoma Aviation Department director Ken Carson. Students learned the basics of aviation, what to expect during flight, and how to map a flight route.

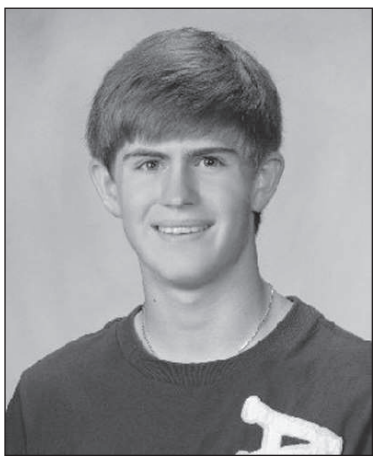
Students next went airborne with a flight instructor. Each student flew the plane for a 30-minute leg.

"It was my first ever flight and a very fun experience," Della said.

Della is the daughter of Neil and Sylvia Stuckey, of Madill. Her grandparents are Teresa Lott, of Marietta, Okla., Martin and Loreta, of Kingston, Okla., and Billy and Susan Stuckey, of Madill.

Her great-grandparents are Glen and Virginia Hicks, of Marietta.

Chickasaw high school student selected for leadership conferences in Boston, China



Caleb Carter

A Chickasaw high school student will be attending a unique engineering and technology conference in July at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Caleb Carter is a rising sophomore at Abilene (TX) High School, where he serves as his class' president. Caleb will travel to Boston July 7-16 where he will participate in the LeadAmerica Engineering and Technology Conference.

The conference offers students the opportunity to engage in mechanical and civil engineering projects, as well as visit with MIT students and faculty.

Conference students will engage in LeadAmerica's challenging college and career readiness curriculum. The purpose is to get students accustomed to the rigors of college engineering study and to the college life.

Caleb has previously attended leadership conferences including the 2010 Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C., and the Alumni Boston Leadership Conference in 2011.

In addition to the MIT experience, Caleb will be attending the Global Young Leaders Conference in China, July 23-Aug. 5.

Caleb has been active in his high school career. He is a student council member, treasurer of the varsity choir and secretary of the Mouse Club. He qualified as a member of the Texas All-State Choir and also serves as a senior computer technician.

Caleb is the son of Dr. Troy and Kathy Carter, of Abilene.

Army Sgt. Wynne receives Bronze Star for service in Afghanistan with 1st Cavalry

1st Sergeant Wynne, right, with Bronze Star presented by Colonel Rex Duncan.

U.S. Army 1st Sergeant Jimmy Jonglenlee Wynne was recently awarded the Bronze Star while serving in Afghanistan with the Army's 1st Cavalry Oklahoma Stability Transitional Team.

1st Sgt. Wynne served a year in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and returned home to his family to Norman, OK on April 18. His entire family is proud of his service to our country and appreciate the sacrifice made by him and his family.

The family would also like to remember those who were not able to return to their families and gave the largest sacrifice of life for our freedoms. We are proud of all of our service men and women who serve around the world and appreciate the sacrifice their families make.

1st Sgt. Wynne is the son of Willie Juanita and Jimmy Wynne, of Stratford, Okla. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three children, Vivien, Jimmy Tishomingo and Karissa Wynne, and two granddaughters, Natalie and Mackenzie Wynne. The Wynne family lives at Bridge Creek, Okla.

Arts & Humanities tour

Renee Hogue, Director of East Central University's Native American Academic Services program, toured the Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities art gallery with an ECU guest, Aisling Conoy, Study Abroad and Exchange Coordinator, from the University of Greenwich in London.

Thomas Hay and Alicia Foss

Foss, Hay nuptials set for August in Jamaica

Alicia Foss will marry Thomas Hay in August 2012 in Jamaica.

Miss Foss, a Chickasaw, is the daughter of Mr. Greg Foss and Ms. Beth Choucaira. She is the granddaughter of Billy and Christy May, of Kansas City.

Mr. Hay is the son of David and Linda Hay, of Thornton, Colo. He is the grandson of Betty Willmot, of Noblesville, Ind.

The bride-to-be is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration from Park University.

She is owner of Custom Radio Communications.

Mr. Hay earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

He is employed by Ascend Learning, Kansas City, as a database administrator.

Erin Lemons

Chickasaw citizen a commission candidate

Chickasaw citizen Erin Lemons is a candidate for county commission in Marshall County, Oklahoma.

Ms. Lemons is running for District 2 commissioner. She is a paramedic with the Marshall County Emergency Medical Service. She is also a member of the Kingston (OK) Fire Department where she works as a firefighter and Emergency Medical Responder.

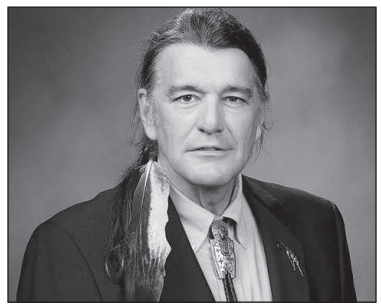
"I'm proud to be a Chickasaw citizen and a Marshall County citizen," Ms. Lemons said.

Pacific Northwest Community Council

Summer is Here!!

This year's Annual Picnic Barbeque is set for Saturday, July 28th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Clackamette Park in Oregon City, Oregon. We hope our fellow Pacific Northwest citizens will be able to join us for food, fun and friends! For further details, or to volunteer to help, please contact Kim or Rena http://www.pnccc.us.

Chickasaw attorney Jess Green honored at Sovereignty Symposium



JESS GREEN

A Chickasaw attorney has recently been honored for his service to the legal community.

Jess Green maintains his law office in Ada, Okla. He received an Oklahoma Supreme Court Service Award during the annual Sovereignty Symposium, June 12-13.

Mr. Green has, over the years, received a number of recognitions for his outstanding legal service.

In 2012, he was awarded an Appreciation Medal by the Miami Tribe, and an Outstanding Service Award by the Oklahoma Tribal Gaming Regulators Association.

In 2011, Mr. Green was inducted into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame. That same year, he received the John Kieffer Service Award and the Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award from the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA).

The NIGA also presented Mr. Green with a Leadership Award in 2009. He has also been honored with a Distinguished Service Award by the Chickasaw Bar Association.

During the Sovereignty Symposium, Mr. Green moderated a panel on Indian gaming.

Mr. Green is founder of the Green Law Firm, P.C. His partners are Nancy Green and Leslie Taylor, and Jared Easterling is the firm's legal intern. The firm represents Indian government and individual clients.

The firm has successfully argued two precedent-setting Indian gaming cases before the Tenth Federal Circuit Court in Denver.

Military care packages

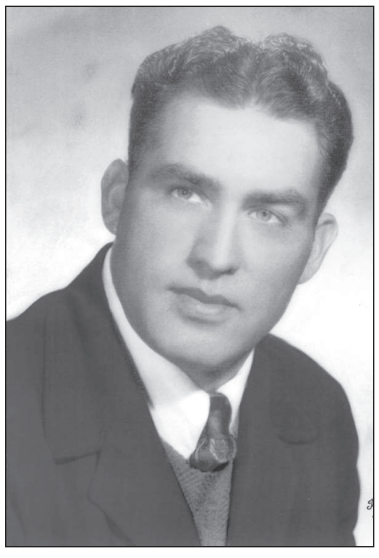
The Chickasaw Nation distributes military care packages to individuals stationed away from their permanent residences.

The military care package distribution list is made up of Chickasaws, spouses of Chickasaws, Chickasaw Nation employees, spouses of employees and children of employees on active duty and stationed away from their permanent residences.

If you know men or women who fit the criteria and would like to add them to the military care package list, **please contact Ms. Randi Payne at (580) 310-6451 or randi.payne@chickasaw.net.**

Thank you for your assistance and for supporting our troops!

Chickasaw ballplayer Vernon Straughn legendary in Southern Oklahoma



VERNON STRAUGHN

Chickasaw pitcher Vernon Straughn, second from left, with the Chickasaw Lumber Company team in 1946.

At the height of men's softball popularity in Southern Oklahoma, a Chickasaw man ruled from the mound as none other.

Vernon Straughn was born Jan. 4, 1912 in Wilson, Okla. His mother, Frances Carlton Straughn, was an original enrollee, and his great-grandfather had come from the old Chickasaw Nation in 1837.

Vernon was a handsome, strapping young man. As a Wilson High School athlete, he excelled in football, basketball and track. Some thought Vernon should make a career as a professional basketball player.

But Vernon loved softball. He lived in his hometown of Wilson his entire life and made a living for his family in the oil fields. But it was softball that fueled Vernon's passion.

A pitcher with a mighty repertoire of fastball, riser and drop, Vernon is estimated to have won 400 games during his 22-year career. He and fellow Indian pitcher Tommy Reynolds were often referred to as the "Super Chiefs" of Oklahoma softball.

"For over 20 years, the big amiable guy dealt the opposing batsmen misery with his blazing pitches," teammate Don Loftis wrote of Vernon soon after his untimely death in a 1955 automobile accident. "There will be a lot of balls thrown and bats swung before another player and gentleman the likes of Vernon Straughn's caliber comes along."

Vernon was well-known throughout the region that supported many men's teams. Many of the teams were sponsored by oil companies, although one – Chickasaw Lumber Company – may have had the best team ever.

Vernon led Chickasaw Lumber during the 1946 and 1947 seasons. He and Tommy Reynolds teamed up to deliver the American Softball Association state championship in 1947. The duo was universally feared – and rarely hit!

The two "Super Chiefs" actually opposed each other during the regular season in 1947 (players in those days often moved to different teams regularly). The 19-inning game ended in a 0-0 tie. Play had to be halted to allow the girls' game to be played before dark!

Probably the most outstanding single example of Vernon's dominance on the mound is reflected in a 1953 game. Pitching for Samedan Oil Company in the Ardmore City League, Vernon won a 19-inning, 1-0 game – and struck out 47 batters!

Vernon utilized the old "figure eight" style of delivery, and Tommy Reynolds employed the now-familiar "windmill" style. Together, the men were virtually unhittable.

Of course, Vernon lost a game now and then, due mostly, as Don Loftis wrote, "because of faulty fielding or poor play behind him." Instances in which poor fielding or other errors were the case, Vernon was noted to be not only philosophical about the loss, but would be the first to console his teammates.

He was also an "iron man" on the mound. He would often pitch both ends of doubleheaders and regularly worked the mound five days in a row.

Vernon was a gentle and kind man who was well-liked by teammates, opponents, coworkers – most everyone.

"He was always eager to help a young player start out pitching or batting," Don Loftis wrote.

One of Vernon's surviving sons, Paul Straughn, has nominated his father for the National Softball Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Softball of Fame.

Vernon's love of people was reflected in his work as a Scoutmaster for a Boy Scouts of America troop, his son Paul said.

"He was very, very proud of his involvement in Scouting," Paul said.

There are still those around who remember Vernon's exploits, although he has now been gone 57 years.

"I wish I had nominated him for the halls of fame earlier," Paul said. "But I'm glad people still remember him, and hopefully will honor what he accomplished."

CONTRIBUTED BY Tom Bolitho, editor.

Mrs. Haden honored for 60-year Delta Kappa Gamma membership

Ruby Dodd Haden

ARDMORE, Okla. – A Chickasaw woman has recently been honored for her longtime service to the teaching profession.

Ruby Dodd Haden was honored May 8 by the Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for her 60 years of membership. Mrs. Haden was honored during the annual Founders' Day Banquet in Ardmore.

Mrs. Haden began her teaching career in a "one-teacher" school in Rocky Point, Okla., in 1942.

She has also taught at Enos, Okla., Shay, Okla., Stratford, Texas, Boise City, Okla., and in California.

Mrs. Haden's Chickasaw ancestry has always been important to her.

In 2004, she was recognized with a lifetime membership in Ohoyohoma Club for her dedicated service and lasting contributions to the preservation of Native American Culture.

She has also been active in Help Hospitalized Veterans and Marshall County Retired Educators Association. She is a member of Sherwood Shores Presbyterian Church.

NEWS FROM CHICKASAW JUNIOR PRINCESS

Raechell Meely
Chickasaw Junior Princess

Chukma!

Hello, my name is Raechell Meely and I am the 2011-2012 Chickasaw Junior Princess. I'm 14 years old, and the daughter of Mitchell Meely and Paula Thomas. I've had such great times with Chickasaw Princess, Nacobi Walker, and Little Miss Chickasaw, Keke Factor. We've been to Washington D.C., Albuquerque and Oklahoma City.

It's been like an adventure going to different places, and learning so much more than I knew before. We've shared a lot of fantastic memories and laughs together and I know there's more to come.

This has been one of the greatest years of my life so far. I am both excited and anxious for upcoming events. I've met alot of extraordinary people, and wonderful families.

However, my reign as Chickasaw Junior Princess is almost up, and I would like to encourage other Chickasaw girls to participate in this year's pageant. It's a lot more fun than you might expect! I wish you all the best!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chickasaw Junior Princess,
Raechell Meely

Kendra L. Ford

Kendra L. Ford is a 2012 graduate of Windsor Forest High School, Savanna, Georgia. She is the daughter of Toronia and Jamie Ford. She is the granddaughter of Kenneth and Bobbie Atteberry.

Kendra plans to attend Georgia Southern University.

Kelsey Greenwood

Kelsey Greenwood is a 2012 graduate of Stratford High School, Stratford, Okla. She is the daughter of Jeff and Summer Greenwood, of Byars, Okla.

Kelsey's school activities included Future Farmers of America (FFA) serving as president 2012-2012; Johsnon O'Malley (JOM) vice president 2009-2012 and president 2011-2012; 4-H vice president 2009-2011, president 2011-2012; class treasurer 2008-2009 and 2011-2012 and vice president 2012-2011; yearbook 2009-2010 and 2011-2012; cheer manager 2012 and Free Will Baptist Youth.

Her honors and awards include: FFA: Grand Champion Lamb 2007, 2009; Reserve Grand Champion Lamb 2007, 2008, 2010; Breed Champion Lamb 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 2010; Reserve Breed Champion Lamb 2005, 2006; Overall Showman 2010; Showmanship Jr. Division 2005, 2006; Showmanship Sr. Division 2008; Davis P.I. Speech Contest 1st Place 2008; Exploration 2008; Star 8th Grader 2008; Star Greenhand 2009; Garvin County Premium Sale 2010, 2011. 4-H; Share the Fun 1st Place 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2nd place 2010; Fastpitch Softball: Defensive Player of the Year 2009, 2010, 2011; Player of the Week 2009, 2010, 2011; Chickasaw Nation Spotlight Athlete 2010, 2011; Set Stratford Fastpitch School record for number of strikeouts 2011; Asher Fastpitch Tournament 2nd place 2010, 2011; Chickasaw Nation Honor Club 2008-2012.

Her community service includes pick up trash at local city park and rodeo ground 4-H, baby-sit foster children for the Pontotoc County DHS, volunteer at softball camps for Stratford School, beautification/cleanup day at Stratford School 4-H and cheer, Assembled CARE packages for the military, homeless and foster children 4-H, Toys for Tots 4-H, Operation Christmas Child 4-H and Kids Club volunteer at Stratford Free Will Baptist Church.

Kelsey was awarded a $1,000 Ford Trucks/Built Ford Tough scholarship from the National FFA Organization. She was selected based on her academic record, FFA and other school and community activities, supervised agricultural experince (SAE) in agricultural education and future goals.

Kelsey plans to attend Murray State College, Tishomingo, Okla., on a softball scholarship and to pursue a degree as a physical therapy assistant.

All Indian Fast Pitch Tournament set for July 28-29 in OKC

OKLAHOMA CITY – The 60th Annual All Indian Fast Pitch Softball Tournament is set for July 28-29 at Boomer Sports Complex in Oklahoma City.

Entry fee is $225 and deadline for entries is July 20. Checks should be made payable to ONASA and mailed to 1500 N. Portland, Oklahoma City, OK 73107.

Awards will include first, second and third individuals, All-Star team and Most Valuable Player.

For more information, contact Lisa Smith-Longman at (405) 609-9929 or llongman32@gmail.com

Hollis D. Adams III

Hollis D. Adams III is a 2012 graduate of Texas Tech University. He is the son of Hollis and Teresa Adams. He is the grandson of Hearl and Flora Mead.

He earned his bachelor of science degree in a commencement ceremony May 19 at the United Spirit Arena, Lubbock.

He plans to continue his education and pursue a career in the medical field.

He is a proud citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and wishes to thank the Chickasaw Education Services for its support in obtaining his college education.

Rachel Joy Byars

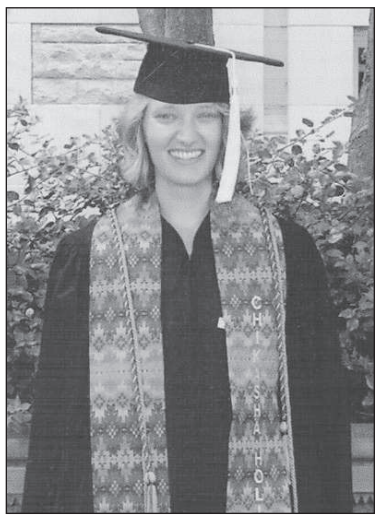
Rachel Joy Byars, of Beggs, Okla., is a 2012 graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee. She is the daughter of Allen and Joy Byars, of Beggs. She is the granddaughter of Rex and Bonnie Byars, of Beggs, and Mildren Pitman, of Saint Jo, Texas.

Ms. Byars graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education. She maintained a 4.0 grade point average and was named to the President's Honor Roll every semester.

During her time at OBU, she was a member of OBU Symphonic Winds, Philos, Mortar Board, Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society, Kappa Delta Pi, Professional Oklahoma Educators, Phi Eta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi.

She will begin teaching in the fall and especially desired to teach middle school gifted and talented to provide students with the challenge, depth, breadth and acceleration they need.

Jeannette E. Fox



Jeannette E. Fox is a 2012 graduate of Cornell University. She is the daughter of Gary and Deborah Fox, of Carlsbad, Calif. She is the granddaughter of Gerald C. and Phyllis Young and the late Edith and the late Albert Fox. She is the great-granddaughter of Bronson and Sybil Gill, the late Ima (nee Greenwood) and Harold Young, Edith and Harry Vogel and Arthur and Carrie Fox, and the great-great-granddaughter of the late Thomas Wilson Greenwood.

Ms. Fox graduated May 28 with a bachelor of arts degree in government, with a double minor in international relations and diversity studies.

She is a member of Phi Sigma Pi, a national honor society.

Thanks to the help she received from the Chickasaw Nation she was able to spend her junior year abroad studying at the London School of Economics and attending a four-week intensive Italian language program in Rome. She will be spending the next year in an Americorps programs working at a college for developmentally disable adults in Pennsylvania and then hopes to attend Kings College in London for postgraduate studies.

Brigette Dianne Evindy McGregor

Brigette Dianne Evindy McGregor is a 2012 graduate of the Art Institute of Dallas. She is the daughter of Dan and Billie McGregor, of Sherman, Texas. She is the granddaughter of the late Evelyn Cisco Moody.

Ms. McGregor graduated June 15 at the FEllowship Bible Church, Dallas. Sheearned a bachelor's degree in fine arts.

She is very proud of her heritage and is thankful for all who have supported her. She would like to thank the Chickasaw Nation for all the support and scholarships which helped her to achieve her goal of getting into the entertainment and film industry.

Amanda Paige Punneo

Amanda Paige Punneo is a 2012 graduate of East Central University, Ada, Okla. She is the daughter of Penni Wilson and J.D. and Kathryn Punneo. She is the granddaughter of Gerry and Diane Ashley and Devon and Barbara Punneo. She is the great granddaughter of Juanita Ruth (Apala) Jackson, Maudie Simpson and Mae Huff.

Ms. Punneo graduated May 12 earning a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

A graduate of Lone Grove (OK) High School, she was a Blue Ribbon Scholar and plans to work for the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, Ada.

Paige wishes to thank Governor Anoatubby and the Chickasaw Nation for the generous scholarships and grants in helping her achieve her goals.

'Te Ata' culmination of two decades of work by Chickasaw playwright

Life story of Oklahoma's first Cultural Treasure featured

From left, Gov. Bill Anoatubby, "Te Ata" cast member and Oklahoma City University student Eryn Lecroy and OCU President Robert Henry. Gov. Anoatubby presented President Henry the "Bearer of the Morning" painting of Te Ata.

Some 25 years after Chickasaw performer Te Ata was named Oklahoma's first cultural treasure, the legacy of the late actress and storyteller is being honored in a two-act play performed in Oklahoma City and Washington, D.C.

"Te Ata," the story of the actress who gained international fame performing before royalty, presidents and school children was presented June 14-17 and 21-24 at Oklahoma City University. A touring production will present the play July 5-8 at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

"Te Ata once wrote that 'art binds all people together,' and her career of more than 50 years bears testimony to that noble idea," Gov. Anoatubby said.

President Franklin Roosevelt asked Te Ata to perform for English monarchs King George VI and Queen Elizabeth during a 1939 state visit which included serious discussions of the political and military situation in Europe.

"Her life's work helped bridge the divide between diverse cultures," said Gov. Anoatubby. "Today, she stands as a shining example of how artistic expression can change hearts and minds in a way that binds all people together."

Performances this summer are the fruition of a journey which spans two decades. It began when JudyLee Oliva, stumbled upon numerous files of Te Ata's work in 1993 while she was researching Native theatre and Native performance.

"She performed at the White House, she performed for the King and Queen of England, but I had never heard of her," she said. "There were hundreds and hundreds of letters and brochures in the files. I felt like I had found gold.

"I spent one summer reading 300 letters that the family had -- just reading letters, reading letters, beautifully written letters. She would use the moons -- she would say it's the 16th sun of the wild rose moon 1933. That's poetry right there, in fact, I even took all the headings of the letters and dates and made sure they're in the play exactly the way she said them."

Ms. Oliva was finally able to meet Te Ata, who was in her 90s at the time.

"The moment I met her I knew I needed to write a play about her," she said. "I was so taken by her. She was so powerful and beautiful. As I began to learn everything about her life story, I just knew there had to be play."

After years of work, Ms. Oliva staged a world premiere of "Te Ata" at the University of Arts and Sciences Oklahoma. But Ms. Oliva was not satisfied that the play met the high standards established by Te Ata's incredible career.

"Something was just not quite right about the play," said Ms. Oliva. "The music created for the play wasn't grounded enough in Native tradition. The sound of the Native flute was not present enough. And more were drums were needed."

Ms. Oliva set out to find a new composer to create all new music just done on Native flute and Drums. She worked with award-winning flute player and composer Jan Seiden for two years to create a new musical score.

She also found two Chickasaw actresses to portray Te Ata as a young lady and as an elder.

Nancy McDoniel, a New York actress who has appeared in several episodes of "Law and Order" and in the movie "United 93," will play the elder Te Ata.

"I think the message is - it's about the unity in Te Ata's life - the Indian culture and the white culture coming together,

SEE TE ATA, PAGE 28

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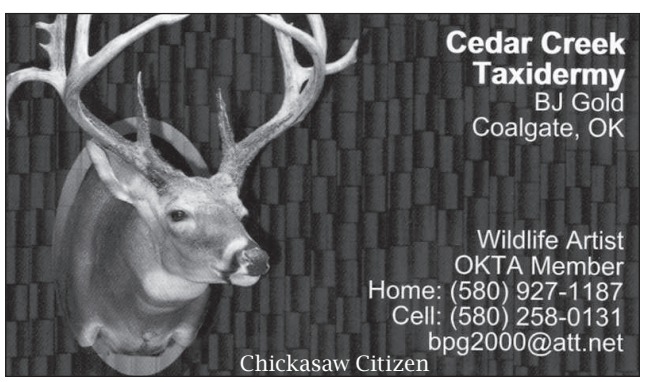

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Couple survives devastation of tornado in recently-installed storm cellar

Bonnie and Jerry Watkins with the storm shelter they credit for saving their lives. Provided by the Chickasaw Nation the shelter was installed just a few months before an EF 5 tornado struck their home.

Marcy Gray

Little remains of the Watkins home after the May 24, 2011 tornado struck. Photo provided.

LINDSAY, Okla. - Jerry and Bonnie Watkins had been married nearly a half-century when their first tornado shelter was installed next to their rural Oklahoma home.

Six months later, it saved their lives.

Living on 57 acres outside of Lindsay since 1985, the couple had a storm shelter, provided by the Chickasaw Nation, installed in the fall of 2010, months before an EF5 tornado struck their home.

"For 60 years, I have never had to go to a cellar," Mr. Watkins said. "When the Chickasaws brought the cellar to us, I told the crew since I now had a storm shelter, I would probably have to use it."

"We didn't even think about having a cellar," Mrs. Watkins said. "If it hadn't been for the Chickasaws and the Storm Shelter program, we probably wouldn't have one."

Today the couple credit their lives to the Chickasaw Nation Storm Shelter program.

"We wouldn't be here if it hadn't been for the Chickasaws," Mr. Watkins said.

The Watkins' fateful trip to their cellar occurred May 24, 2011, a day when deadly tornadoes roared through the Oklahoma towns of Canton, Chickasha, Newcastle, Dibble, Washington, Goldsby, El Reno, Guthrie and Piedmont.

An EF5 tornado with 190 mile-per-hour winds took direct aim at the Watkins' wooded property and left a massive trail of damage in its wake.

But their lives and the lives of four friends and family members who took shelter in the concrete refuge were spared.

The couple were on their way home May 24 from the Chickasaw Elders Conference at WinStar World Casino in Thackerville, Okla.

They had just left the transport bus and stepped into their car at Purcell, Okla., when their daughter, Amanda, called in a panic about the weather conditions.

She begged her parents to turn around and go back to safety of the Purcell Senior Site and out of the tornado's path.

The couple knew their home was directly in the tornado's path since they were listening to weather reports and receiving repeated phone calls from their daughter during the 30-minute drive from Purcell to their home north of Lindsay.

Downed trees and debris surround Jerry and Bonnie Watkins' storm shelter after an EF-5 tornado struck their Lindsay property May 24, 2011. The storm shelter was provided by the Chickasaw Nation and the couple credits the shelter for saving their lives and the lives of four family members. Photo provided.

"We knew it was coming," Mrs. Watkins recalled, choking back tears.

In the midst of chaos, Mr. Watkins was determined to get home to help his family and friends seek shelter.

"I had to go home because I had to unlock the gate for my son and his wife and some neighbors and friends who were coming to use the storm shelter," he said.

When they arrived at the gate, it was unlocked.

"It's a good thing because I wouldn't have had time to unlock it," said Mr. Watkins.

They drove down their long drive, followed closely by their granddaughter, and made it to their home.

"I pulled up in front of the house and parked the car under the trees in case it was going to hail," said Mr. Watkins.

Mrs. Watkins sprinted into the house to check to see if everything was alright. Mr. Watkins urged her to get to the shelter.

"I had time to run from the car to the back door and yell at her to get to the shelter," he said. "I didn't have time to look up. I grabbed her and pushed her down the stairs."

As the shelter door was being latched, the tornado hit. It was so strong the cellar vibrated.

"I've never witnessed that much force and power in my life," said Mr. Watkins. "It felt like I was in a cardboard box."

The pressure in their ears, the couple said, was almost unbearable.

About 10 minutes later, the couple emerged from the shelter and tried to comprehend what they saw.

"It was bad," said Mr. Watkins.

The tornado left their home uninhabitable, peeling back the roof and most exterior walls. Deadly winds left trees stripped, twisted and bent. A motor home lay in a ditch. Two horses and a cat died. The tornado uprooted the grass and mangled fruit trees. Two goats were found untethered but unharmed far away from where they had been tied before the tornado struck.

Re-Building Community Spirit

In the months following, as the Watkins' struggled to rebuild their lives, the couple found unwavering support from the community.

Friends, family and church members pitched in, including a woman from Norman who donated a houseful of furniture. Their children, Rebecca Floyd, Dewayne Watkins and Amanda Forestburg and their families all helped in the cleanup. Friends brought chain saws. Others brought supplies, manpower and muscle.

Help was also found from the American Red Cross and FEMA and three groups of Norman High School students came and helped pick up the mounds of debris scattered around the property.

All 12 Chickasaw Senior Sites came together to give the Watkins' a house-warming shower, with gifts of towels, kitchenwares and other necessities.

"They gave us what we needed," said Mr. Watkins.

A travel trailer, on loan from a Chickasaw friend, became their home for the next several months.

Today, a smashed pickup and two damaged cars, a bent metal gate, naked twisted trees, piles of debris and scattered glass are daily reminders of the tornado's destruction

Since the couple had no insurance, they began to rebuild their home on their own about three months later.

"We didn't know what to do, so just decided to build our home on and go on," said Mrs. Watkins.

Mr. Watkins did the plumbing, wiring and together they framed the home, room by room. A year later, the couple has moved back into their home. Work remains to finish the home.

Through all the trials and hardships they are still able to find humor.

"I wanted to remodel, but not like this," joked Mr. Watkins.

About Chickasaw Storm Shelter Program in Tribal Boundaries

The Chickasaw Storm Shelter program provides storm shelters for privately owned homes of Chickasaw citizens within the tribal boundaries

In fiscal year 2011, a total of 255 storm shelters were

SEE **WATKINS,** PAGE 23

Helping students stay in school, earn degrees

Academic services office helps Indian students through challenges

RENEE HOGUE

ADA, Okla. - It's been a year since East Central University began its own Native American Academic Services program to ensure that Native American students stay in school and complete their degrees. So far, the results have been encouraging, but its director wants more students and families to be aware that ECU has an on-campus liaison for students.

The goal of ECU's program is to serve 18 percent of ECU's enrollment – Native American students –both in and out of the classroom in order to make sure their college careers are successful, said Renee Hogue, ECU's director of Native American academic services.

That means providing cultural learning experiences as well as academic services for those students.

"We are partnering with the Chickasaw Nation's Division of Youth and Family to develop the ECU-Chickasaw Learning Community," Mrs. Hogue said. "We're working with Chickasaw students to provide them with additional cultural and service learning opportunities. This gives them a way to become involved on campus as well as with their tribe. Hopefully, this is just the beginning. We're looking to develop partnerships with other tribes."

The ECU program also partners with the Choctaw Nation's Scholarship Advisory Program to provide more retention efforts, such as scholarships and other funding, to keep Choctaw students in school at ECU.

Last fall ECU had 864 Native American students and 29 tribes represented on campus.

One of the most requested services has been helping students find and apply for Native American and tribal scholarships. Links to Oklahoma tribal scholarship information, Mrs. Hogue said, are on the NAAS website at www.ecok.edu/NAAS.

The NAAS program, headquartered in Room 318 of the Horace Mann building, also provides academic advisement and enrollment and offers referrals to a variety of on-campus and community resources.

"I refer students to campus programs such as tutoring, financial aid and career services," Mrs. Hogue said. "I also refer them to community resources such as tribal programs and services. If students have a need, I try to help them find a solution."

Mrs. Hogue emails Native American students about upcoming tribal scholarship deadlines and internship opportunities as they become available. Those kinds of reminders help increase awareness of the services and opportunities available to them.

Workshops are conducted at ECU each fall to help area minority high school students apply for Gates Millennium Scholarships. Mrs. Hogue been selected to read and score these scholarship applications through the American Indian Graduate Center in Albuquerque.

Mrs. Hogue also attends several Native American college fairs each year and communicates with Johnson-O'Malley and other high school counselors to let them know about ECU's Native American Academic Services office.

Cultural learning opportunities, Mrs. Hogue said, usually draw a large number of students. Informal classes to teach collar beading and how to make puckertoe moccasins have been well attended. Even organized stickball games which have been played on the ECU lawn.

ECU's Native American Student Association also organized a film series, cultural food event, peyote stitch class and performances by dancers and drummers.

Mrs. Hogue, who is Chickasaw and Caddo, is no stranger to student retention efforts. ECU had started a program to get these cultural and academic efforts under way in 2009 with a two-year federal grant, the Native American Voices Project, which she directed. When the grant ended last year, ECU decided to continue the retention efforts through the Native American Academic Services office.

Before directing the federal grant, Mrs. Hogue worked 10 years for the Chickasaw Nation, with the last four years on the ECU campus as its recruitment and retention coordinator.

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Chickasaw Community Council of Central Texas

Cara Lemm and Grace Lemm participate in the hands-on off loom beading workshop recently at the Community Council of Central Texas.

On Sunday June, 10 the Community Council of Central Texas conducted its regular meeting in Austin. The council meets at the Texas Music Museum in Austin on the second Sunday of most months.

The program in June was a hands-on workshop to introduce the members present to "off loom bead weaving." Each participant was given a chance to learn the technique which produces a very durable woven beaded strip. The children present seemed to catch on the quickest and it was very encouraging to the elders to see their interest in such cultural crafts.

The other highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the prizes being offered in the Council's latest fundraising effort. Chairman Charles Holland reported the Council had been able to obtain the signature of Chickasaw artist Dustin Mater on both the Pendleton Blanket and the numbered print of his original design that the Council is offering in its annual raffle.

Artist Mater's "Spring" design is the first Southeastern Indian motif used by Pendleton on its famous Native American blanket series.

The Council will be offeringraffle tickets until the second week in October. A third prize of a wool vest, also by Pendleton, will be included in the drawing.

WATKINS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

installed for Chickasaw Citizens and since inception of the storm shelter program, the tribe has installed more than 2,300 storm shelters at the homes of Chickasaw citizens.

To be eligible for the program you must be a Chickasaw citizen, have no outstanding debt owed to the Division of Housing or to the Chickasaw Nation, and the home must be the applicant's primary residence.

The program has no income restrictions. Storm shelters are awarded one time only to each family in order to meet the needs of all Chickasaws.

At-Large Storm Shelter Program

Implemented in 2006, the at-large Storm Shelter program is for Chickasaw citizens who live outside the Chickasaw Nation service area.

This program provides a grant up to $2,500 to the citizen and a contractor of their choosing for the installation of a storm shelter.

The program has no income restrictions, requiring only the application, proof of Chickasaw citizenship, and a copy of deed to property to show ownership.

To date, more than 900 shelters have been provided to Chickasaw families living at large, including Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Texas.

For more information about the Chickasaw Nation Storm Shelter program, contact Chickasaw Nation Housing Management Services at (580) 421-8800.

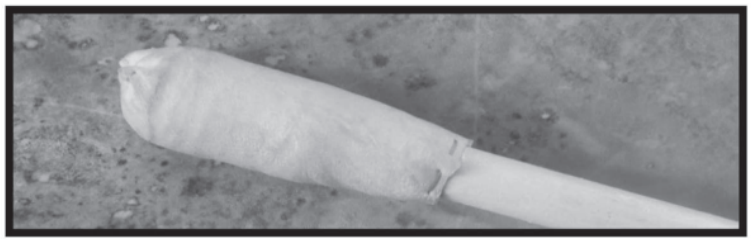
CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Damaged vehicles and piles of debris are reminders of the deadly May 2011 tornado that hit the Watkins' McClain (Okla.) County property. Photo by Marcy Gray.

Aerial shot of the Watkins' property before (above) the May 24, 2011 tornado and after (below) the tornado.

CHOKKA' KILIMPI'

(Strong Home)



- Youth, Family and Community
  Mental health, substance abuse and family counseling services for American Indian families.
- Student Development
  Recruit, support and train Chickasaw students to enter into the helping professions.
- Citizen Awareness
  Provide information on programs and services that are easily accessible.
- Research and Training
  Develop research topics in collaboration with OU that supports knowledge of best practices.
- Professional Development
  Provide ongoing training opportunities and support for staff to better serve families.
- Cultural Opportunities
  Provide classes and programs to Chickasaw families to connect them to the Chickasaw culture.

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Family Resource Center
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Norman, OK 73072
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Fax: 405.767.8949
www.Chickasaw.net/ck

the Chickasaw Nation

Promoting wellness for Chickasaw families through body, mind, spirit and culture.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Juried Fine Arts Show - Adult & Youth

$20,000 IN AWARDS $3,000 BEST OF SHOW

Submission Deadline: September 7, 2012

Southeastern and Woodland artists are invited to join the Chickasaw Nation for the eighth annual Southeastern Art Show and Market (SEASAM) in beautiful Tishomingo, Oklahoma. The Chickasaw Nation SEASAM will be held in conjuction with the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Chickasaw Nation and the 24th Chickasaw Festival.

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SEASAM

THE CHICKASAW NATION

presents

the eighth annual

SOUTHEASTERN ART SHOW AND MARKET

OCTOBER 5 - 6, 2012

Tishomingo, Oklahoma

Application forms, entry rules and additional information can be found on the Chickasaw Nation website at www.chickasaw.net. For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities at (580) 272-5520 or email artistinfo@chickasaw.net.

the Chickasaw Nation

May 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award recipients

Kory Cunningham

Kory, son of Danny and Karen Cunningham, of Horatio, Ark., is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award for Academic Achievement.

Kory Cunningham

Kory is in the fourth grade at Horatio Elementary School and was nominated by fourth grade teacher Christian Lites.

"Kory has worked very hard this entire school year and does his best to help others," said Lites. "He is very bright and strives hard to do his best."

Kory loves sports and this past year played center position for his football team and outfield on his baseball team. He is also very involved in his youth group at church.

Kory works hard to keep his grades up and as a result received awards for the science achievement and reading achievement as well as making the A-B honor roll.

"My future plans are to attend college," said Kory.

Madison Turner

Madison, daughter of Russell and Christy Turner, of Rusk, Texas, is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award for Academic Achievement.

Madison Turner

Madison is a sophomore at Rusk High School and was nominated by high school principal Scott Schwartz.

"Madison has earned several awards as a sophomore for the 2011-2012 school year in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and a commitment to the areas of service, leadership, and character," said Mr. Schwartz.

Madison is dedicated to her volleyball and softball teams as well as keeping her grades up. She has maintained straight A's since first grade and was ranked seventh in her class at the end of her freshman year.

Madison is also involved in her church where she is vice-president of her youth group. She willingly gives her time to attend mission trips and serve her community.

"I plan to have a career in the field of accounting or finance after receiving a MBA," said Madison.

Addyson Burris

Addyson, daughter of Terry and Mendy Burris, of Stillwater, Okla., is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award for Academic Achievement.

Addyson Burris

Addyson is in the third grade at Highland Park Elementary and was nominated by third grade teacher Tara Swick.

"Addyson maintained an A average in all subjects for the 2011-2012 school year," said Ms. Swick. "She also received an outstanding academic achievement award for this past school year."

Addyson spends her time reading and writing and won a blue ribbon medal this year for being the student with the highest points in accelerated reading. This summer she is attending nature camp and is proud to be Chickasaw.

Addyson also enjoys swimming and playing with her dogs as well as taking care of their chickens.

"I want to be a professional swimmer," said Addyson.

Daryn Allison

Daryn, daughter of Heath and Tracy Allison, of Allen, Okla., is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award for Academic Achievement and Language.

Daryn Allison

Daryn is in the fourth grade at Byng Elementary and was nominated by Indian education coordinator Stephanie Delfrate.

"I have known Daryn for several years and find her to be a fine and responsible young lady," said Ms. Delfrate. "She is always willing to help when help is needed and gets along well with others."

Daryn loves to dance, play the piano and ride four-wheelers with her brother.

Daryn is involved with Native voices and is learning to sing and speak in Chickasaw.

"When I grow up I want to be a famous dancer," said Daryn.

Talon Taylor

Talon, daughter of Lisa Myers, of Ada, Okla., is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award for Outstanding Citizenship.

Talon Taylor

Talon is in the fourth grade at Byng Elementary and was nominated by Indian education coordinator Stephanie Delfrate.

"Talon is the type of student you can be proud of," said Ms. Delfrate. "She is trusted by her peers and her attitude and influence on others is much appreciated."

Talon enjoys playing soccer and is involved in the Native Voices club.

Talon is a member of the Byng Assembly of God and involved in the Ada Boys and Girls club.

Jacob Summers

Jacob, son of Johnathan Summers, of Roff, Okla., is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award for Academic Achievement.

Jacob Summers

Jacob is in the third grade at Roff School and was nominated by third grade teacher Jimmie Timmons.

"Jacob has worked hard this year and has maintained As and Bs the entire year," said Mr. Timmons.

Jacob enjoys playing both basketball and baseball and is involved in the local 4-h club.

Jacob is a member of the Chickasaw explore group and plans to participate again next year. He loves helping his grandmother and elderly neighbors.

"I want to go to college and be a baseball player when I grow up," said Jacob.

John West

John, son of Jared and Lavonna West, of Ada, Okla., is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award for Language.

John West

John is in the sixth grade at Byng Elementary School and was nominated by Indian education coordinator Stephanie Delfrate.

"John is more than the ideal student," said Ms. Delfrate. " He has been a tremendous student and an asset to our school."

John is in the school band, basketball team and runs track. He is also involved in the Chickasaw Nation Language program at school and has competed in the language fair in Norman for the past three years.

Kristen Wolfe

Kristen, daughter of Rodney and Tammy Wolfe, of Quinlan, Texas., is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award for Music and Band.

Kristen Wolfe

Kristen is in the seventh grade at Thompson Middle School and was nominated by band director Kyle Causey.

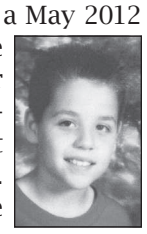
"Kristen is a very hard worker in the band program", said Mr. Causey. "She always comes prepared, knows her part, and is eager to learn more. She outshines other members of her section with her promptness and attention to detail and always gives 110%."

Kristen plays flute and competes in solo and ensemble contest every year. She is learning how to play alto saxophone wants to play in jazz band.

"My future plans are to become a nurse or a music teacher", said Kristen. "I love to help people."

Joseph McGuire

Joseph, son of Joseph McGuire and Ashley Gamble, of Oklahoma City, is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Athletics.



Joseph McGuire

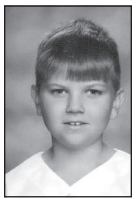
Joseph is in the fourth grade at Hayes Elementary and was nominated by the Physical Education coach Jody Caruthers.

"Joseph is great in class and received the presidential physical fitness award this school year," said Mr. Caruthers.

Joseph loves playing sports and had perfect attendance as a student this year. He also enjoys drawing and animals.

Henry Robison

Henry, son of Tom and Sandy Robison, of Sikeston, Mo., is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Art.



Henry Robison

Henry is in the third grade at Lee Hunter Elementary and was nominated by the art teacher Jennifer Scism.

"Henry is an outstanding student," said Ms. Scism. "He has a positive "can do" attitude towards school and is talented, thoughtful, smart and creative."

Henry made the honor roll and had his artwork displayed at the school art show.

Henry also was selected for safety patrol which he will serve next school year.

"When I grow up I want to be a major league baseball player and a famous artist," said Henry.

Logan Jarrett

Logan, son of Lee and Joeanna Jarrett, of Ada,Okla., is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Citizenship.

Logan Jarrett

Logan is in the fifth grade at Roff School and was nominated by fifth grade teacher Claudette Wellington.

"Logan tries to do his best in most anything that's put before him," said Ms. Wellington. "He loves to learn and always has a positive attitude."

Logan has been student of the year in 1st-4th grade and his favorite subjects are math and science.

"I plan to work as hard as I can in school to graduate high school," said Logan. "I know it's going to be a challenge but I am ready to work hard."

SEE **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT**, PAGE 25

Clothing grant application period now July 1 to December 31

A change in the clothing grant application period has been announced by the Department of Youth Services. The new application period is July 1 through December 31, 2012.

School-age Chickasaw students between the ages of three and 18 may apply for the clothing grant. The grant is issued in the form of a $200 VISA card usable at any clothing vendor that accepts VISA (most do). The grant allows Chickasaw students to purchase the necessary apparel needed for school.

Applications can be submitted online at **https://services.chickasaw.net** by establishing an electronic user account for the student. Printable applications are also available at www.chickasaw.net/ysclothinggrant. To request an application by mail, call (580) 272-5585 or email clothinggrantprogram@chickasaw.net.

Applications may also be picked up in person at the Douglas H. Johnston Education Building at 300 Rosedale Road or at the Youth and Family Services Building at 231 Seabrook Road, both in Ada, Okla.

Students who are not yet registered Chickasaw citizens, or those who have a pending citizenship application, should contact the office of Tribal Government Services at (580) 436-7250 prior to applying for the clothing grant.

For any additional questions or information, please call (580) 272-5585.

CONTRIBUTED BY Brooke Tidwell, Public Affairs

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Aryele Dudgeon

Aryele, daughter of Jacob and Rosa Dudgeon, of Lindsay, Okla., is a May 2012 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Academics and Athletics.

Aryele Dudgeon

Aryele is in the seventh grade at Lindsay School and was nominated by coach Rick Miley.

"Aryele is one of the hardest working, most dedicated young ladies you will ever meet," said Mr. Miley. "It is an honor to work with her."

Aryele has received 15 medals in track and an award in leadership. She enjoys church, reading, drawing and taking photos.

"I plan to get my bachelors in the medical field," said Aryele-

CONTRIBUTED BY Sarah Jones, Public Affairs

Student engagement focus of Indian Learners Conference

The eighth annual American Indian Learners Conference took place at the University of Central Oklahoma on May 19. This year's conference concentrated on art and health and featured a keynote address by Chickasaw Nation Division of Health Administrator Dr. Judy Goforth Parker.

The American Indian Learners Conference is a one-day conference designed to address the issues of American Indian students and their relationships with faculty, curriculum content and their school. Educators from across the state are invited to attend workshops and take part in hands-on make-and-take sessions.

"The conference is a great resource for Oklahoma educators," said Laura Stewart, director of Arts in Education. "Through the workshops and make and take sessions educators are gaining skills that can be taken back to their schools."

The American Indian Learners Conference is sponsored by the Oklahoma Center for Arts and Education, the Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation and American Indian Cultural Center and Museum.

CONTRIBUTED BY Nicole Walls, Public Affairs

Employment, Social Security Benefits Training July 26

How will employment affect your Social Security benefits? Learn how during a training offered by the Chickasaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation and Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation. The training is at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 26 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center located at 2750 Big Lots Parkway in Durant, Oklahoma.

Participants will explore how employment will affect the benefits of someone who is receiving Social Security Insurance or Social Security Disability Insurance. Vickey Dudgeon, director of the Oklahoma Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Program will be leading the training. Guest speaker Janice Morris, an advocate with the Oklahoma Disability Law Center, will provide information on how her organization may be of assistance to people with disabilities.

Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have any questions or wish to RSVP, please email Jason.Burns@Chickasaw.net or call 580-421-7711 x60951.

CONTRIBUTED BY Sarah Jones, Public Affairs

Landscaping products distribution seminar July 23 at Medical Center

The Chickasaw Nation landscaping products July distribution seminar will be at 5:30 p.m., Monday, July 23 at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, Ada, Okla.

Chickasaw citizens who own a home, or are in the process of purchasing a home, are eligible to receive trees, shrubs and sod to landscape their home.

Attending the seminar is a requirement to participate in the landscaping products distribution program. Topics covered include types of plant species, and care and maintenance for a variety of vegetation.

Participants must provide the following documentation; copy of Chickasaw citizenship card, utility bill and proof of home ownership (warranty deed, insurance binder or letter from the lender).

For more information, call (580) 559-0888.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

August is Child Support Awareness Month

ADA, Okla. - August marks Child Support Awareness month. This annual event focuses on the importance of providing proper financial support for children.

Child support professionals and parents who are committed to making a difference in the emotional and financial lives of children are honored. The Chickasaw Nation Department of Child Support Services will conduct "I Love My Child," a child support awareness initiative, in Ada.

"Children and families continue to be a top priority within the Chickasaw Nation," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. "This initiative expresses the importance of caring for our children and providing them the resources needed to live healthy, successful lives."

You can join in! Celebrate with others by attending these events:

August 1 10 a.m.
Kick-off event
Chickasaw Child Development Center East Parking Lot, 222 Rosedale Road, Ada

August 25 9 a.m. to noon
Family Fun Day
Wintersmith Park, 18th Street and Scenic Drive, Ada

Each year millions of children nationwide are financially impacted when their parents separate. The Chickasaw Nation Department of Child Support Services is cracking down on unfulfilled child support obligations by assisting Oklahoma families.

In 2011, the Department of Child Support Services collected and distributed more than $3 million in child support. The Department currently processes more 1,700 child support cases annually.

For more information about Child Support Awareness month or assistance in child support services, call (866) 431-3419 or visit www.Chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Brooke Tidwell, Public Affairs

The Chickasaw Nation Child Support Services

I Love My Child

Child Support Awareness

Chickasaw Nation WIC program seeks comments

The Chickasaw Nation is soliciting comments from individuals regarding the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Input is needed for development of the state plan of operation for the 2013 fiscal year.

These comments must be received by August 10, 2012.

WIC is a federally-funded nutrition, education and supplemental food program for pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as infants and children up to age five, who are determined to be at nutritional risk and whose income falls below 185 percent of the poverty level. The Chickasaw Nation WIC program currently serves approximately 3900 women, infants and children throughout the 13-county area.

Comments regarding the WIC program may be mailed to Melinda Newport, RD/LD, Nutrition Services director, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74820, or phone (580) 436-7255 or toll free (888) 436-7255.

For more information about receiving WIC program services, call (580) 436-7255 or Debi Tipton at (580) 310-6420. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Chickasaws, athletes from across U.S. compete in Jim Thorpe Games

Shades of Red, a basketball team of mostly Chickasaw athletes, placed second in the Jim Thorpe Games basketball tournament. From left, Chad Smith, Osahwv-Vcule Frazier, Andre Davis, Sefaun White, Jayce Cravens, Jacob Birdshead, Ryan Tilley, Kanan Wisdom, Kylen Southers, Kele Parnacher and Vince Tilley.

OKLAHOMA CITY – Native American athletes representing tribes from across the country met in Oklahoma City for the very first Jim Thorpe Native American games, June 10-17.

Honoring Jim Thorpe, one of history's greatest athletes, the games were played on the 100th anniversary of his two gold medals earned in the 1912 Olympics. Thorpe has been a hero to Native American athletes for many years.

"Native American youth can see what Jim Thorpe accomplished and they can learn from him and believe anything is possible if they put their effort into it," said Chad Smith, Chickasaw and coach of Shades of Red basketball team.

Shades of Red, made up of Chickasaw and other Native American athletes from Ada, Okla. and surrounding areas, placed second in the under-16 division of the basketball tournament. Aside from the good showing, Mr. Smith said his team enjoyed meeting and competing against athletes from different tribes.

"It is really important to have games like this, not only for the youth, but for other age groups too," he said. "It gives the Native American people the opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities. Hopefully, the Jim Thorpe games will be even bigger next time."

This year, competition included baseball, softball, basketball, tennis, track and field, wrestling, martial arts, stickball, volleyball and football. Competitions were at various locations in the Oklahoma City area, including Oklahoma City University, the American Softball Association Hall of Fame softball complex and the Oklahoma City Tennis Center.

Along with the physical competitions, activities at the Jim Thorpe Games included a parade of nations opening ceremony, trade show and interactive exhibits and clinics.

The Chickasaw Nation hosted a day of children's activities during the games, where students were able to take part in crafts, including beadwork and turban-making, and games from the Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Service's Eagle Adventure Program.

Also on-hand was the Rolling Thunder Book Bus. The bus travels to schools, community centers, museums, parks and various sites to promote reading and literacy. Students who visit the bus receive a free book.

The Jim Thorpe Native American Games is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. The organization's goal is to encourage excellence in sports, academics, health and fitness. A portion of all proceeds from the games will benefit the Jim Thorpe Bright Path Youth Programs and the Native American Diabetes Research.

CONTRIBUTED BY Kyle Wittman, Public Affairs

The Rolling Thunder Book Bus makes a stop at the Chickasaw Nation's children's activity day.

Chickasaw student Kaylynn McKane, an Oklahoma City Public Schools student, enjoys crafts during the Chickasaw Nation's children's activity day.

Team Chickasaw Golf Team competes at Jim Thorpe Games in Oklahoma City

Team Chickasaw Golf Team recently competed at the Jim Thorpe Games in Oklahoma City. Team member Spencer Upton scored a hole-in-one during the organizations golf tournament. Team members include, top row, from left, Dakota Green, Austin McNeil, Matthew Henry, Spencer Upton and Eric Fish. Bottom row, from left, Logan Matthews, Delaney Daniels and RJ Trainam.

Team Chickasaw Golf Team members who participated in the Jim Thorpe games with Governor Bill Anoatubby. From left, Matthew Henry, Spencer Upton, Governor Anoatubby , Austin McNeill, Logan Matthews, Dakota Green and RJ Trainham.

Brandon Rolan

Foundation adviser graduates Leadership YOUniversity

Congratulations to Mr. Brandon Rolan, academic advisor with Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound, for sucessfully completing the Leadership YOUniversity program coordinated by the Ada Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Rolan was honored along with other graduates on May 30 at Oak Hills Country Club in Ada, Oklahoma.

Leah Nuemann named 'Student of the Month'

Leah Nuemann

Ms. Leah Nuemann, a recent graduate of Tishomingo High School, was selected for the May 2012 Chickasaw Foundation Student of the Month.

She has been a participant in the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound program for three years.

Leah was her class valedictorian and involved in Art Club, Spanish Club, yearbook, academic team, and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. She maintained a 4.0 grade point average.

Leah volunteers in her community by working in the local animal shelter and helping with food drives. She has also volunteered for the annual Chickasaw Foundation T-Ball Tournament and the Children's Fair.

She plans to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University in the fall majoring in fine arts.

10th Annual Foundation Scholarship Reception set for July 23

The Chickasaw Foundation will host its 10th annual scholarship reception at 6 p.m., July 23 at the McSwain Theatre, 130 West Main in Ada, Okla.

Scholarship awards will be presented to recipients along with a Power Point presentation and refreshments.

Please RSVP by contacting the Chickasaw Foundation at chickasawfoundation@chickasaw.net or calling (580) 421-9030.

Chickasaw Foundation Call for Artists

The Chickasaw Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. We are currently accepting donations of Native American artwork for our art auction during the Friends of the Foundation reception on November 16, 2012. This reception is held annually to recognize donors and volunteers.

Your tax-deductible donation will benefit the foundation and its scholarship program. In 2007 we established the Chickasaw Foundation Fine Arts Scholarship for any college student with a CDIB majoring in fine arts (arts, music, dramatics and dance). This one-time award is a competitive scholarship offered annually. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact the Chickasaw Foundation at (580) 421-9030.

The mission of the Chickasaw Foundation is to promote the general welfare and culture of the Chickasaw people by supporting educational, health, historical and community activities and programs.

Foundation Upward Bound kicks off Summer Session at Murray State

Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound began the 2012 summer session on May 29, 2012.

This extensive period of study is designed to prepare students for the upcoming academic year. During the session, students are enrolled in a variety of classes on the Murray State College campus including academic life skills, algebra I & II, biology & zoology, composition, computer science, geometry, trigonometry, calculus and math analysis, literature, physical education, physics & chemistry and Spanish.

Along with academic classes, the summer session offers many activities to create a college-like atmosphere for participants. Students live in the dorms and stay active with martial arts classes, team and leadership building, art projects, and community service opportunities.

Following the on-campus portion of the summer session, students will take part in an outdoor classroom experience by participating in an educational field trip which ties to their summer curriculum.

Foundation Upward Bound math, science students tour Southeastern aviation center, USAO facilities

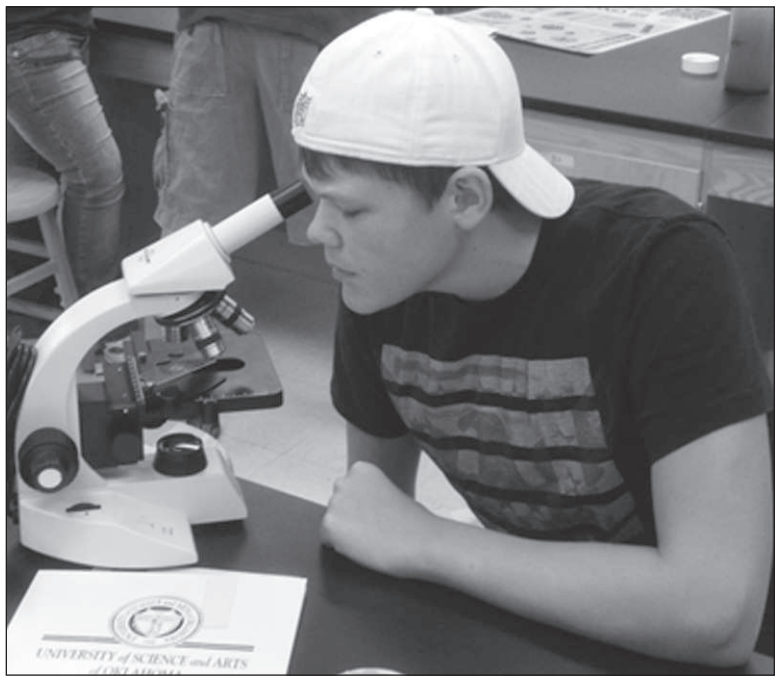
The Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound Math & Science students began their 2012 summer session field trips on June 1 with a visit to the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Aviation Science Institute in Durant.

Participants received a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility, viewed the different aircraft housed at Eacker Field and also observed the flight simulator used to train students on campus.

On June 8, students visited the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) in Chickasha.

Participants received an up-close look at a college science lab as they worked with college professors and students to identify bacteria from a local pond. Students toured the campus and received some one-on-one time with current USAO students to ask questions about college preparation, enrollment, and the American College Test (ACT).

Vanessa Flores, Tiffany Jeffcoat and Sarah Ward working with filters at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO).



Bubba Gray identifying bacteria from local pond water at USAO.

Holisso Center Research Fellowship now available through Foundation

A new research fellowship provides funding for a student research fellowship at the Holisso Center at the Chickasaw Cultural Center.

The Chickasaw Foundation, the organization that provides extensive grants, scholarships and fellowships to Chickasaw and Indian students, has announced the Holisso Center Research Fellowship.

The fellowship is open to full-time students of accredited U.S. graduate schools or those preparing an academic paper, book or presentation on Chickasaw history or culture.

This unique fellowship provides up to $2,000 for a one-week research period at the Holisso Center. The funds may be used for room, board, hotel, transportation, etc.

Deadline to submit fellowship applications is August 10, 2012.

Applications and additional information may be gained by calling the Chickasaw Foundation at (580) 421-9030, or email chickasawfoundation@chickasaw.net

TE ATA | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

just the blending of everything in Te Ata's life," said Ms McDoniel. "I would like to convey that Te Ata was a person who brought all of these things together. And, I believe that she was just trying to show the world 'us' the Native American Indian. She was giving this little gift of our traditions to other people so that they can pass it on to others - and it can keep growing."

Tana Takes Horse, a graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, plays the young Te Ata. Born in the small town of Colbert, Okla., and pursuing a theater career, she identifies closely with Te Ata.

"I was so surprised at how much our lives just went together," said Ms. Takes Horse. "Her having a theatre background - and me, also, doing the same thing, going to college and getting my degree.

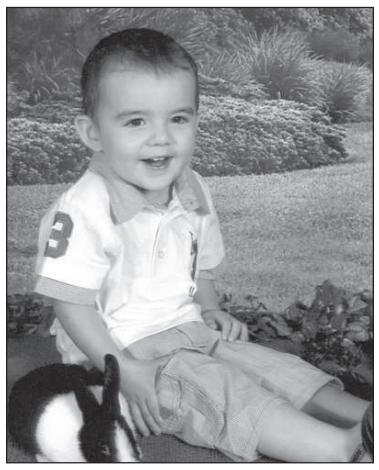
"I find that to be very important as a performer to understand your art. And, she did that. She went to school - and went to another school - and finally she went to New York City. And, I feel that I'm kind of on that same path."

Completion of this play echoes one of Te Ata's signature performances, according to Ms. Oliva.

"In the play, the character Te Ata, says, 'The last song is everything you add up to be.' For me, my play Te Ata, is my last song, because it is the most important play that I will ever write," said Ms. Oliva. "I've seen over these last two decades how the play has created a special kind of spirit for everyone who has seen it or worked on it. I call it 'Te Ata's ribbon.' It is as if her spirit has guided me to find the best way to write her story, and those who are involved in telling it are forever changed."

CONTRIBUTED BY Tony Choate, Media Relations.

Madalynne Faith Dozier



Maverick Cash Arden

Madalynne Dozier Peach Blossom candidate

Madalynne Faith Dozier is a candidate for the Stratford (OK) Peach Festival "Peach Blossom."

Maddie enjoys her Dora movies, dolls, playing outside and pagents.

Madalynne is the daughter of Dennis and Nichole Dozier, of Pauls Valley, Okla.

She is the granddaughter of Dennis and Faye Dozier, and Donna Hawkins, all of Pauls Valley. She is the great-granddaughter of Don Cowling, of Stratford.

Maverick Arden is Peach Bud candidate

Maverick Cash Arden is a candidate for the Stratford (OK) Peach Festival "Peach Bud."

He enjoys playing outside and Thomas the Train.

Maverick is the son of David and Rachel Arden, of Ada, Okla.

He is the grandson of Charles and Hazel Arden, of Norman, Okla., and Donna Hawkins, of Pauls Valley, Okla. He is the great-grandson of Don Cowling, of Stratford.

2nd Annual American Indian Festival set for July 14-15 at Century II Expo in Wichita

WICHITA, Kan. – The Second Annual American Indian Festival is set for July 14-15 at Century II Expo Hall in Wichita.

Tickets are available for $5 for adults; $4 for elders and military; and $3 for youth ages six to 16. Children under six are admitted free. A two-day adult pass is available for $8.

Tickets are available at WichitaTIX.com, or at the door.

The festival will run from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. Powwow Grand Entry will be at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

On Sunday, hours are 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.. Grand Entry will be at 1 p.m. Doors will open each day at 10 a.m.

The festival will feature an Indian art market, youth art show, arts and crafts vendors, food vendors, hands-on youth activities, and health and education booths.

Powwow dancers will have access to spacious dressing rooms and secure storage.

Century II Expo Hall is at 225 W. Douglas in Wichita.

For more information, see www.theindiancenter.org, or contact April Scott at (316) 350-3340 or ascott@wichita.gov

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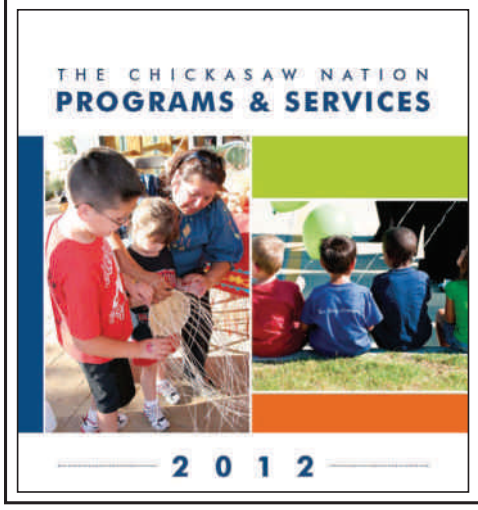

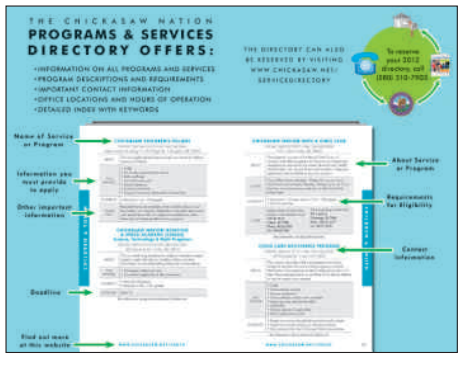

Camp Survivor provides fun outdoor experiences, nutrition education

Camp counselors work with youth to make a positive impact in their lives at Camp Survivor.

Campers prepare for a swim at Camp Survivor.

DAVIS, Okla. - More than 100 children, ages nine to 13, participated in the annual Chickasaw Nation Camp Survivor May 29 – June 1 at YMCA Camp Classen in Davis.

The outdoor camp's goal is to promote healthy lifestyles through proper nutrition and exercise in a fun and positive atmosphere. Cooperation and character building are also highlighted in the camp by the variety of activities campers experience. Camp Survivor activities included wall climbing, canoeing, fishing, swimming, archery, stickball and challenge courses.

In addition to the fun activities, campers were provided healthy snacks and meals and also learned how to properly read nutrition labels to emphasize the importance of both exercise and nutrition.

The assortment of entertaining activities made it easy for first-time camp counselor Nick Martinez to volunteer.

"It's just a great experience here at the camp, being able to mentor and teach young kids about the importance of staying healthy while also having a great time myself," said Mr. Martinez. "The kids are really enthusiastic about learning and, of course, about having fun."

The camp, sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation Divisions of Health and Youth and Family, uses volunteers from various Chickasaw Nation departments as camp counselors to work together to focus on the overall development of the youth.

This year's winners of the Favorite Male and Female Counselor awards were Oscar Gore and Lindsey Elliott. Lindsey Elliott is also the first former Camp Survivor camper to return as a counselor.

Camp participants were divided into teams to work together toward the goal of becoming the overall team champion. This year's champion was team Lakna.

CONTRIBUTED BY Kyle Wittman, Public Affairs

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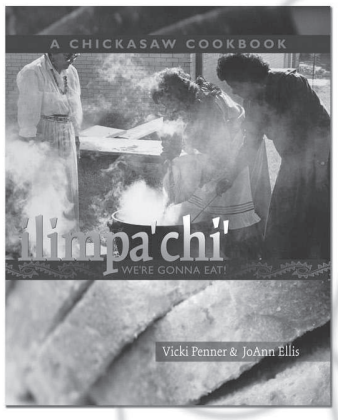

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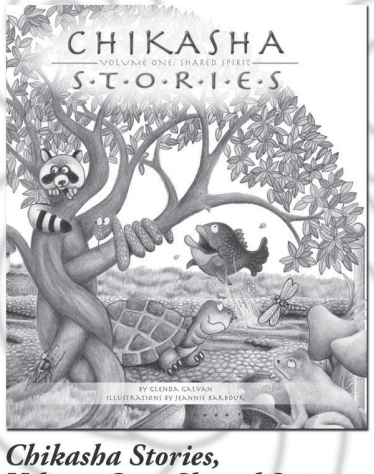

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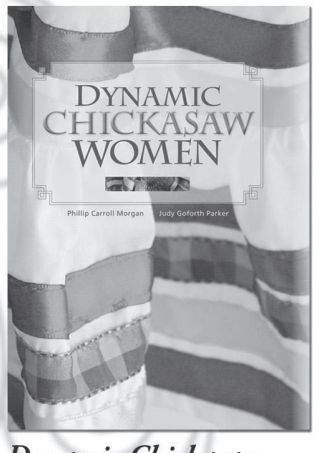

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Space, aviation kids hit stride during annual CNASA program

Super Top Gun winner Savannah Smith, 14, of Tulsa, and Junior Super Top Gun winner Jacob Nichols, 13, of Ardmore.

Junior Top Gun winner Reece Milner, 11, of Purcell, with Top Gun winner Jacob Dawkins, 17, of Oregon.

The Chickasaw Nation Science, Technology and Math Academy (STM Academy) is always a busy place. Students continually come and go as they learn through play with Lego's, robots, flight simulators and other technologies. However, June may be the busiest time of the year for the academy as it hosts the ninth annual Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy (CNASA).

Friday, June 15 marked the end of this week-long event that brought 37 Chickasaw campers, ages 10-17, from across the U.S. to learn about the exciting fields of aviation and space.

At CNASA, students built solar power cars, high-pressure rockets from household items and participated in numerous classes designed to excise their mind and creativity. CNASA came to a climax as the students competed to see who had the best designs.

As much fun as these competitions are, many students thought Thursday's trip to Jenks, Okla., to fly flight simulators and a real airplane was the highlight of the Academy.

"I was up in the air for a really long time," said Jacob Dawkins, 17, of Oregon. "It was scary, but fun. The scariest part was when one of the girls took control of the airplane!"

CNASA is one of many educational programs designed by the Chickasaw Nation Division of Education to promote lifelong learning and personal development of Chickasaw students. Established in 2003, CNASA's activities and curriculum is continually being improved to spark interest in the aviation, space, science and math fields.

"We want to inspire these students to set their goals high and work to achieve their dreams," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. "This Academy, along with the FIRST robotics program and other educational ventures help expand students' horizons."

Aric Easleywadd, 14, of Ada, Okla., says it best.

"This is the third space camp I have attended," Aric said. "It is fun to build stuff and use the flight simulators. I like learning about space. Math and science are my favorite subjects in school and I will probably do something with them as my job."

Growing every year, CNASA had eight professional Science, Technology and Math Academy staff who worked the event. On hand for support were 10 area students who participate in the Chickasaw Nation FIRST LEGO and Robotics teams and acted as peer mentors. Students received almost a 2-to-1 ratio between themselves, mentors and staff.

"I really love the robotics group and try to come to all the events at the STM Academy," said student mentor Laurel Click, 13, of Ada. "I like the kids from out of state. There are not different then us, they each have different personalities. They are a lot of fun."

For the 24 students who traveled to Ada for CNASA and were staying in a local motel, evening cultural classes and a trip to the Chickasaw Cultural Center allowed for an experience they may otherwise never received.

"The cultural classes are important at our academy," explained Oscar Gore, manager of the STM Academy. "Most of the kids that we bring in from out of state would never have the chance to visit the Cultural Center unless we took them. They live so far out and most of them don't live around other Chickasaw people, so it is almost like this is their chance to be reacquainted with who they really are."

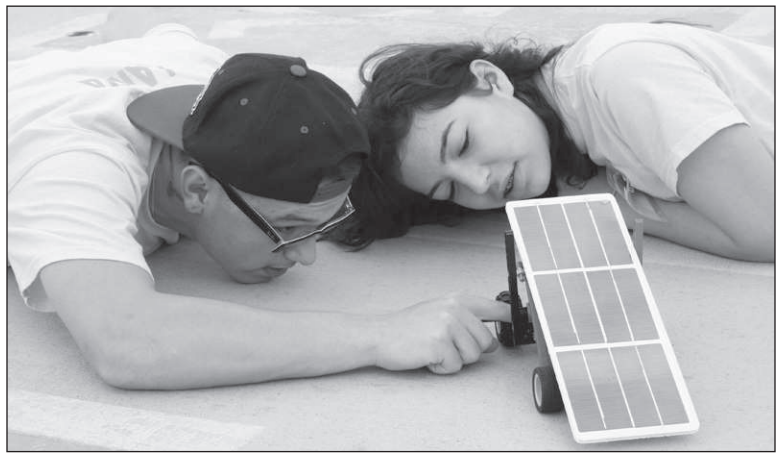
Savannah Smith launches her rocket during competition. From left are Sara Postoak, CNASA mentor Rob Murray and Savannah Smith.

CNASA finished Friday night with an awards and graduation ceremony at the Chickasaw Nation Family Life Center in Ada. Four campers were awarded the titles of Super Top Gun, Top Gun, Junior Super Top Gun and Junior Top Gun. Super Top Guns showed leadership, respect and a willingness to go the extra mile to help other students. Top Guns have leadership qualities, respect for others and showed growth over the week.

Eighteen students who participated in CNASA will follow it up next week with Space Camp. Space Camp, located in Huntsville, Ala., is a challenging week-long experience presented by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration that allows campers to discover their engineering talent. Participants get hands on training about the mental, emotional and physical demands astronauts must endure.

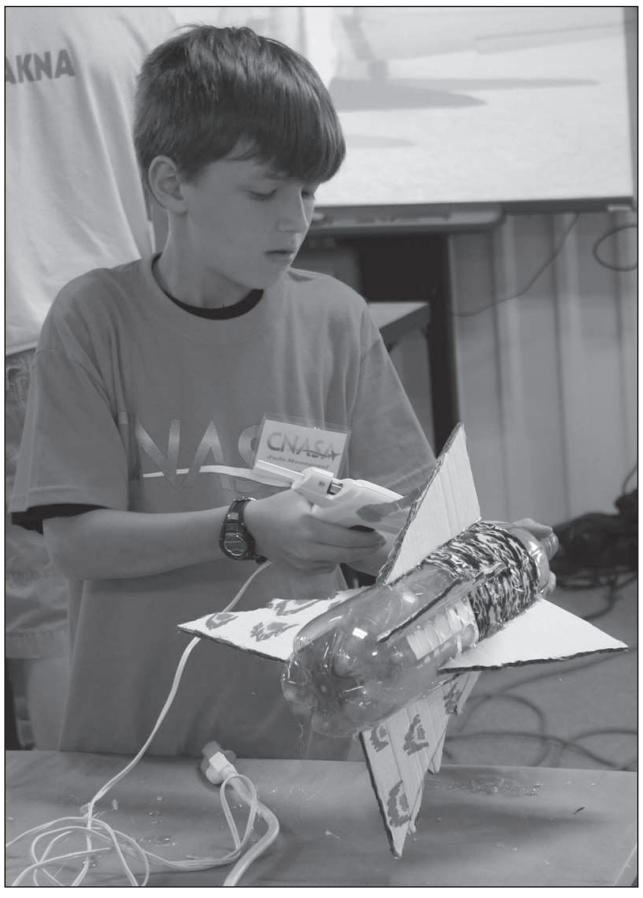
For more information about CNASA, Space Camp and the Science, Technology and Math Academy, contact Oscar Gore of the Chickasaw Nation at (580)272-1223.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.



Jacob Dawkins, 17,of Oregon, and teammate Samantha Postoak,16,of Texas, prepare their solar power car for the final race.

CNASA | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30



Jude Hanegraaf, 11, of Illinois, makes final touches to his rocket before competition.

CNASA students using one of four flight simulators located at the Science, Technology and Math Academy. Pictured from left to right: Josef Liebl, 12, Virginia, Luke Sabey, 15, Colorado, and STM Academy Manager Oscar Gore.

David Barlow, 17, of Allen, Okla., a peer mentor, shows other students how to fly down a water slide.

Students Aenaes Freeman, 11, of Oklahoma City, James Gillet, 12, of Missouri, and Mathew Ayers, 12, of Edmond, Okla., participate in one of the many hands on activities.

Maren Gillet, 13, of Missouri, beats the June heat.

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'Warrior Horse' project offers peace, recovery to returning war veterans

SHELBY ROWE

Almost Home Ranch volunteer Seren Major feeds some of the horses at the ranch.

LINCOLN, Ark. - Chickasaw citizen Shelby Rowe has a vision. She wants to help America's soldiers recover from the lingering effects of war.

Ms. Rowe has worked with military members and families before. As former Arkansas Crisis Center executive director, she noticed a gap in service for returning military members who had trouble adjusting from the battlefield to everyday life.

"So many veterans were suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and really struggling to adjust to life back home," she said. "But they were hesitant to go get help, literally waiting until it was life-threatening before they sought help."

She detailed why it was sometimes tough for a solider to make the transition back to civilian life.

"When they are overseas, they are in charge of millions of dollars of equipment," she said. "They come home to a hero's welcome, and then a month later, there are no jobs. They're unemployed. They're having difficulty making that transition. When you've experienced what they've experienced, coming back to everyday life is nearly impossible."

There are numerous soldiers, she said, who were not emotionally coming home.

"I wanted to help them in a way that was more welcoming and they would feel a part of our community."

Current research suggests as many as 20 percent of returning soldiers suffer from PTSD and 18 percent suffer from traumatic brain injury.

After much soul searching and a leap of faith, she had a solution: The Almost Home Ranch. This would be a place where America's heroes could seek solace, decompress, be part of a community and reconnect with daily life before taking on one of their most challenging missions - reintegrating into civilian life.

"I think many cultures in the past, including our tribe, did a much better job of honoring their warriors," Ms. Rowe said. "So, I want to do my part to bring that back for all of these men and women that are coming back from the longest war in our American history."

Almost Home Ranch

Ms. Rowe discovered a method of blending her love of horses, her mental health expertise and the drive to give back to America's warriors – the Almost Home Ranch.

"Once I had the idea for Almost Home Ranch, it really was like a vision," she said. "It just stayed with me morning, noon and night. I knew it was something that I really needed to do."

She took a long drive to mull her plans, and by the time she ended up in the Ada, Okla., area, she was convinced the ranch was her calling.

The name "Almost Home Ranch" was inspired by her father, a Vietnam War veteran, and a medic from the same era.

"Because, when my Dad had come home from the Vietnam War and he had never really emotionally came home," she said. "He detached from our family."

Ms. Rowe said her parents divorced after her father returned from war. He was not around very much.

She now believes her father was suffering from survivor's guilt.

"My Dad, looking back at what he'd experienced, didn't feel like he deserved to have a happy family," she said. "And that got me thinking. There are so many of our soldiers who don't really make it home."

A medic also shared stories he had carried with him for 40 years.

"He had never really emotionally come home and needed to talk and visit," she said. "I shared that story with my Dad and then, he shared with me stories from when he was at war, stories that I had never heard. My compassion went out to him."

Back at the Ranch

Ms. Rowe discovered a nine-acre farm, outside Lincoln, Ark., and fell in love with it. It is now Almost Home Ranch.

She has plans to turn one of the barns into a "man cave"- a place where soldiers can decompress and consider their new reality.

Warrior Horse Project

The first ranch project, the Warrior Horse Project, was created because of a tough personal decision the single mom had experienced.

An avid horse lover in the midst of a divorce, she had to sell her beloved horse "Pharoah."

"I started to realize he needed a better home than I could give him," Ms. Rowe said. "I found a good family for him, but, it was heart breaking."

This sparked a question. What about the men and women going overseas? What do they do with their horses?

"I wondered if any of them felt as I had, and I wanted to do something about it," she said. "I wanted to provide a safe home for soldiers' horses when they are away and can't take care of them themselves.

"I didn't want any soldier to feel guilty that they weren't able to take care of their horse if they had a close bond with a horse. I really wanted to do my part to preserve that bond."

With that, the Warrior Horse Project accepted two "guests," "J.T." and "Sarge," who arrived last November. The pair belongs to Army Specialist Morgan Hunley.

Spec. Hunley has served tours of duty in Iraq, Honduras and Egypt, and knows the pain of leaving a horse at home while serving in the military.

First introduced to horses when less than one year old, she has been surrounded by horses her entire life.

"To this day it's the only place I feel like the world is right," Spec. Hunley said.

Before finding Almost Home Ranch, she had made the heart-wrenching decision to sell her two horses.

"Just months after putting them on the market, Almost Home Ranch came into the picture," Spec. Hunley said. "I can't imagine a better way for my 'boys' to be taken care of… by taking care of soldiers. I can't imagine my life without horses, but I also love being a soldier. The two unfortunately do not coincide well, but I think now I can have the best of both worlds."

After "J.T." and "Sarge" arrived the community celebrated a "barn warming." Community members, including the Lincoln Rodeo Queen, brought gifts for the horses.

Stone Soup

Civilian volunteers help out at the ranch after completing crisis intervention training. Volunteers work alongside soldiers putting up fences, polishing saddles or just being supportive.

One of the volunteers is a woman whose soldier husband had struggled with PTSD, but went on a second deployment to Iraq. While he was overseas, she found out she was pregnant.

"When she was seven months pregnant he sent her an email and ended the marriage," Ms. Rowe said. "He didn't feel he would ever be able to come home and be there for his family."

The woman heard about Almost Home Ranch on Facebook and now brings her now five-year-old son.

"She wants her son to play a role in helping soldiers and helping warriors," Ms. Rowes said. "Even if he doesn't get the opportunity to meet his father, it's very important for them to be involved so they come out and do horse safety and help around the barn. And, it's just wonderful to see him around the horses and to have that connection with the warrior culture."

Almost Home Ranch board member and volunteer veteran Sgt. Rian Keith Short said many of his brothers and sisters in arms had come back from war only to discover they emotionally never left.

"I know the struggles they face and what it means to sacrifice for your country," Sgt. Short said. "Although, I might not be able to show them the way, I have the opportunity to hold their hands as they embark on their emotional journey back home."

Ms. Rowe has many other stories about the dedicated

SEE **ALMOST HOME**, PAGE 33

Students discover 'nuts and bolts' of environmental conservation

Campers learn about tools used by the United States Geological Survey. Pictured from left to right; Jaylee Willis, Ada, Logan Jarrett, Ada, Paisley Mitchell, Ada Colton Bird, Ada, and Daejon Jordan, Ada.

The Chickasaw Nation Department of Environmental Services hosted the fourth annual Environmental Camp May 30-June 1. This three-day camp allowed students to receive a behind-the-scenes look at ongoing conservation efforts in the state of Oklahoma. Featuring outdoor classroom settings and fieldtrips, 31 students ages eight to 12 learned from professionals in the field.

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby said that the camp gives students a new perspective on environmental issues.

"The Environmental Camp allows students to see the fundamental workings of our natural environment," said Gov. Anoatubby. "It helps them understand why the Chickasaw Nation places a high priority on environmental stewardship."

During the camp, nontraditional outdoor classrooms were used to teach campers about their natural surroundings. Fieldtrips were taken to Byrd's Mill Spring, Ada's water treatment plant, the Chickasaw Nation Horticulture Nursery and the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History.

Dana Nickell of the Chickasaw Nations Department of Environmental Services explained,

"Our outdoor classrooms and field trips are meant to help campers understand the natural world around them. Using items and activities they are already familiar with, they relate to what we are teaching. You can actually see when the kids get it!"

Representatives from the Chickasaw Nation Department of Environmental Services, the United States Geological Survey and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission gave demonstrations on the tools and science the organizations use to monitor the environment.

At Byrds Mill Spring and the City of Ada's water treatment center, campers learned the processes to get water to their homes.

"I liked seeing the teachers explain how important the environment is," said Daejon Jordon, 12, of Ada. "Science is really cool because it teaches how life works. It was neat to see how gravity makes water flow to our homes."

Campers enjoyed a trip to the Chickasaw Nation Horticulture Nursery where they learned the soilless technique of gardening called hydroponics. Crops like tomatoes and lettuce are grown on location in this cost saving, healthy way. Students learned the harvested produce is to be used at the Medical Center and Chickasaw Cultural Center cafés.

A trip to the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, located in Norman, also took place. Campers strolled through the five permanent exhibits and as they learned about ancient life, the natural wonders of Oklahoma and the Native cultures of those who reside within the state.

As a cultural component of the Environmental Camp, campers took part in traditional Chickasaw dances and heard time-honored stories. This was led by Cultural Activities Coordinator Wayne Walker.

"As we lived in one area for thousands of years, in order to stay in the area for so long we hunted in the north one year and then the south for one year, then the east and west so that on the fifth year we would be hunting to the north again. This allowed the area to repopulate the deer and other plants and animals. We were environmentalist long before European contact. This practice is one of the things the Four Corners dance represents," explained Walker.

For more information about the Chickasaw Nations Environmental Camp, contact Cindy Gammons at (580) 272-5456.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

Reece Jordan, of Ada, proudly displays a crawfish caught while at Byrds Mill Spring.

ALMOST HOME | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

Shelby Rowe, right, and her son, Trevor Greer and "Ace" at the Almost Home Ranch in Lincoln, Ark. The not-for-profit ranch, founded by Ms. Rowe, a Chickasaw citizen, provides therapy for veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and also boards soldier's horses when they are deployed.

ranch volunteers, including one volunteer who lives three hours away and makes horse jumps for the ranch.

"It is just the outpouring of support, people saying, 'hey, I think that this is great that you're doing this to help our soldiers,'" she said.

Chickasaw Spirit

Ms. Rowe believes her Chickasaw heritage drives her to be optimistic, compassionate, dynamic and determined to improve others' lives.

"There are a lot of very strong-willed Chickasaw women in my family who stood up and did the right thing when it would have been easier just to give in," she said. "They've been a really strong inspiration to me."

Working with veterans and suicide prevention, she said, was not depressing, but rather inspiring.

"I get to hear these great stories and hear the triumph of the survival instinct over and over again and I feel drawn to do something to help," she said.

Warriors are a part of tribal history, she said, and everyone in the tribe knew what they did.

"I don't think we have that in American society right now," she said. "I've talked to many returning soldiers that are ashamed of that warrior part of them. They're ashamed that they have that hyper-alert. That is phenomenal."

Horses and PTSD

According to Ms. Rowe, an untrained horse is a lot like someone with PTSD. Stuck in fight, flight or freeze mode, the horse exhibits either constant avoidance, aggressive and hyper-alert behavior or totally "tuned out," trying to cope with what they've experienced.

Horses are ruled predominantly by their autonomic nervous system. Someone with PTSD, has an autonomic nervous system that is hypersensitive.

"It's the thing that gives you the sweaty palms and makes your heart beat faster," she said.

Overcoming PTSD, she said, involved learning different skills to deal with certain situations and not feel the need to attack, and feeling a sense of safety.

One of the keys to success is matching the right horse with the right person.

Looking Ahead

Ms. Rowe is currently operating a day program. She hopes to have a larger place that could be totally self-sufficient and serve as a residential facility.

"Veterans having a hard time making that transition could come and stay with us (at the larger facility) for up to three months and work as ranch hands," she said.

For more information about the Almost Home Ranch, visit Almost Home Ranch at www.almosthomeranch.org. Almost Home Ranch is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Beginners pick up the game's fundamentals at Tennis Camp

2012 Chickasaw Nation Beginners Tennis Camp participants include: First row, from left: Macy Cardindle, Mackenzie Kent, Laylah Huston, Macyee Davis, Elizabeth Johnson, Ashton Bierce, Raphael Padilla, Alex Westmoreland and Jackson Swopes. Second row, from left, Zora Rose Chapman, Garrett Trett, Jacob Carter, Allie Harrison, Tipton Gentry, Jaylee Willis, Kelsey Morgan and Topanga Love. Third row, from left, Mikayla Kent, Ke-Ke Factor, Kayla Lamb, Jolie Morgan, Sayir Tamayo, Brayden Smith, Gabrielle Padilla and Coda Meyers. Fourth row, from left, Landon Swopes, Riley Shoup, Levi Gentry, Jarrett Ellis, Chase Imotichey, Chad Milne, Jalen Johnson and Alex Brown. Fifth row, from left, coaches Skip Griese, Terry Swopes, Chase Sheffield, Joe Griese, Josh Ellis, Sunny Swopes and Kevin Waller. Mike McKee

Tennis coach Josh Ellis gives Sayir Tomayo a few pointers at Chickasaw Nation Tennis Clinic. Inclement weather forced indoor practice at the Family Life Center one day of the four-day camp.

ADA, Okla. - Chickasaw youth learned to love the game of tennis during Chickasaw Nation Beginner Tennis Clinic, June 11-14 at the Ada Tennis Center.

More than 40 students spent four days learning the game and rules of tennis, or improving skills and techniques learned at last year's camp.

"We've been having so much fun we wish it was an overnight camp," said Mikaela Kent, of Ada. "Then, we could get up early and start playing and practicing our positions."

Her teammates Ke-Ke Factor and Zora Rose-Chapman, both of Ada, agreed.

"The coaches are awesome," said Zora Rose.

Again this year, veteran tennis coaches and local student-athletes served as coaches at the clinic, including Ada High School coach Coach Skip Greise, a 44-year tennis coaching veteran.

Coach Greise has led the Chickasaw Nation Tennis Clinic for the past eight years.

"We are teaching a life-long sport," he said. "It's a game the kids can play their entire lifetimes. All it takes to play are two people and a net."

Sportsmanship and integrity during camp were stressed during clinic.

When asked what she learned, first-time tennis clinic participant Ke-Ke Factor eagerly displayed her forehand, backhand and volley.

"I love it," she said when asked if she liked tennis.

Another first time tennis camper Braden Smith, Ada, said he attended camp to "learn how to play tennis."

Although the majority of the clinic was conducted at the Ada Tennis Center, the group had to retreat to the Chickasaw Nation Family Life Center when it rained Wednesday, June 13.

The clinic concluded with "play day" where campers hit tennis balls in an attempt to knock over items such as sports drinks, canisters of socks, tennis grips and hats. Any item knocked over by a camper was theirs to take home.

Intermediate and advanced tennis clinic was June 18-21. Coverage of the camp will appear in the August issue of the Chickasaw Times.

For more information about Chickasaw Nation Youth programs, log on to www.chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Chickasaw Nation Tennis Clinic participants, from left, Zora Rose Champman, Ke-Ke Factor and Mikaela Kent, all of Ada, demonstrate a stance they learned tennis clinic.

Jaylee Willis, left, and Kelsey Morgan at Chickasaw Nation Tennis Clinic.

Over 100 Chickasaw kids hit the course at Golf Camp

Anna Mae Palmer, of Ada, practices her long drive during the skills rotation at beginner golf camp, conducted at WinStar Golf Course June 11-12. Mike McKee

Sayir Tamayo prepares to drive the ball at beginner's golf camp.

Ty Hartsman, of Turner, Okla., and Dalaney Ryans, of Lindsay, Okla., share a golf cart during course play at advanced golf camp.

THACKERVILLE, Okla. – Nine-year-old Anna Mae Palmer, of Ada, Okla., has narrowed her future career choices down to two: a pediatrician or a professional golfer.

As a participant at Chickasaw Nation Golf Camp, June 4-7 at the WinStar Golf Course, the Chickasaw student was able to sharpen her skills to be a contender on the greens.

Anna Mae was one of 133 Chickasaw students to attend golf camp, and she was grateful for the opportunity.

When asked her impressions of the WinStar Golf facility she had a simple answer: "We are pretty lucky to be here."

Makenna Moore, 11, returned to golf camp for a second year to "meet new people and learn the sport."

"I'm looking forward to playing again," said the sixth grade Ardmore, Okla., student.

The camp is divided into beginner and advanced sessions.

About 83 beginners, ages 8-14, learned about chipping, putting and driving June 4 and 5. More than 50 advanced players perfected their golfing skills later in the week.

"Coming to golf camp is the only time I get to come play golf," said 15-year-old Dillon Wilson, of Lone Grove, Okla. "Golf camp is neat, we have all these trainers here and I get to play this awesome sport."

Encouraged by veteran coaches and members of the East Central University Golf Team, students learned the fundamentals, rules, safety tips and etiquette of the game and gained confidence in their abilities.

East Central Golf Coach Danny Key, along with several other coaches, have helped at Golf Camp for several years.

"I enjoy working with the kids every year," Coach Key said. "It is neat helping them from the first time they pick up a club. It's also fun to work with the experienced golfers, giving them new tips and working with them."

A small player-to-coach ratio ensures each camper receives individual attention.

For more information about Chickasaw Nation Youth programs, visit www.chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Golf Camp 'veteran' returns to teach new golfers

Bryeson Lance

For the past 12 years, Chickasaw golfer Bryeson Lance has spent four days of his summer break at Chickasaw Nation Golf Camp. This year was no exception.

Starting as a 10-year-old novice golfer, the 22-year-old college graduate now "pays it forward" by coaching both beginners and advanced players during the camp.

"I look forward to coming to golf camp every year, it is one of the highlights of my summer," Mr. Lance said.

Now a role model for younger Chickasaws, he hopes he can inspire young golfers to dream big.

"I always look forward to helping the kids," he said. "I want them to have the same opportunities I have had and to be able to discover their full potential."

At golf camp, he helps kids with their long drive in the skills rotation.

"They all want to know how to hit the ball in the air instead of the ground," he said. "They get really excited when they hit the ball in the air for the first time."

He takes pride in seeing the skills of returning golf campers improve.

"It's nice to see their progress."

Mr. Lance recently wrapped up a four-year stint on the East Central University Golf Team. He earned a golf scholarship to ECU.

While playing for the Tigers, Mr. Lance had several top finishes in conference play and finished 59th at the 2010 NCAA Division II South Central Regional. He finished in a tie for 10th place at the 2009 PGA Minority Collegiate Tournament and he was four-time Native American National Champion.

This year, he helped the ECU men's golf team finish fourth at Great American Conference Golf Championships in Hot Springs, Ark., after he tied for seventh place.

While at Sulphur (OK) High School, he placed in the top 10 at the state golf tournament for the Bulldogs, including one third-place effort. He was also a member of the Team Chickasaw Golf team.

Seminole, Okla., sisters Malayja and Deja White, left and right. golf with their cousin Elizabeth Harrison at Advanced Golf Camp.

CHICKASAW COMMUNITY COUNCILS

For a complete listing of Chickasaw Nation camps, academies and other events visit www.chickasaw.net

OKLAHOMA
ACHILLE
Achille Area Chickasaws
Quarterly, last Saturday at 1:30 p.m.
Kay Anders, 580-283-3979

CONNERVILLE
Connerville Chickasaw Community Council
Bi-Monthly, 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Tony Poe, 580-421-4994

KINGSTON
Chickasaws of Texoma
Quarterly, 4th Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
Ruth McAdoo, 580-564-6803

Marshall County Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly, 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Sarah Lea, 580-564-4570

NEWCASTLE
Northern Pontotoc Chickasaw Community Council
Monthly, 2nd Thursday
Potluck at 6 p.m. and Meeting at 7 p.m.
Todd Griffith, 405-615-1303

OKLAHOMA CITY
OKC Metro Chickasaw Community Council
1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Billy Hester, 405-340-5469

PURCELL
Purcell Chickasaw Community Council
4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Carolee Maxwell, 405-527-7676

TISHOMINGO
Johnston County Chickasaw Community Council
Bi-monthly, 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Ann Fink, 580-371-3351

ARIZONA
Chickasaws of Arizona
Quarterly Meetings
Angie Ott, 480-834-7309

CALIFORNIA
Inland Empire/Desert Cities Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly, 3rd Saturday 2:00 p.m.
Bill Chandler, 714-604-5224 or wchandler@socal.rr.com

Northern California Chickasaw Citizen Connection
Quarterly
Phil Reynolds, 916-988-8182

COLORADO
Chickasaw Community Council of Colorado
Bi-Monthly
Stephen Bingham, 303-377-4637

KANSAS
Chickasaw Community Council of Wichita
Quarterly, 3rd Sunday at 2:30 p.m.
Lynn Stumblingbear, (316) 945-9219

LOUISIANA
Monroe Area Chickasaw Citizen Connection
Semi-Annually
Chickasaw Outreach, 580-332-1165

MISSOURI
St. Louis Area Chickasaw Citizen Connection
Quarterly
Chickasaw Outreach, 580-332-1165

NEW ENGLAND
New England Chickasaw Citizen Connection
Semi-Annually
Chickasaw Outreach, 580-332-1165

NEW MEXICO
New Mexico Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly
Chris Rodke, 505-450-4802

OREGON/WASHINGTON
Pacific Northwest Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly
Kim Factor, 503-819-3097 or Rena Smith, 503-543-7401

TEXAS
Chickasaw Community Council of Central Texas
2nd Sunday at 2 p.m.
Charles Holland, 512-341-0024

Chickasaw Community Council of South Texas
Monthly, 2nd Sunday at 2 p.m.
Mark Fields, 210-269-2619

North Texas Chickasaw Community Council
3rd Saturday
John C. Atkins, 972-271-0692

Tyler Area Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly
Howard Thompson, 903-570-9244

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Complete the Customer Service Survey and win!

Chickasaw citizens who complete a tribal customer service survey can win $100.

Chickasaws can access the Customer Service Survey through the tribal website at www.chickasaw.net. The survey seeks input from citizens regarding tribal programs, services and customer service.

After completing the survey, enter the giveaway. The $100 will be given away each quarter. Winners will be announced in *the Chickasaw Times.*

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WWW.PEARLTHEMOVIE.NET
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FAMILY APPROVED

LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
Chickasaw Nation Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
May 18, 2012

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson David Woerz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 ROLL CALL

Members present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods, David Woerz

Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms, Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel

Guests present: mWilma Pauline Stout Watson, Mike Watson, Jeff Odell, Dana Lance, Michael L. Wingo, Arthur Ellsworth, Erika Sanderfur, Ky1a Irmsa

AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Ms. Green.

AGENDA ITEM #4 READING OF MINUTES - April 20, 2012

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Barker to approve the April 20, 2012, minutes.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods, David Woerz

13 yes votes

The motion to approve the minutes of April 20, 2012, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #6: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(A) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Scott Colbert

General Resolution Number 29-025, Approval of Development Budget Amendment (Davis Oak Hills Chickasaw Travel Stop)

This resolution approves the amendment to the Development Budget for The Davis Oak Hills Chickasaw Travel Stop, Project Number 1131-DAV-RTL-C in the amount of $5,329,906.00. Phase 1 of the Davis Project to build a new Chickasaw Travel Stop at the Oak Hills location, west of I-35. This location will provide easy access for southbound traffic to the travel stop while complimenting the new Visitor's Center and the Bedré Chocolate Factory. In addition to providing more accessibility, it allows for the replacement of the existing Davis Trading Post without interruption. This proposal involves the design, engineering and construction of a new 9,579 square foot building. The building will house a C-store, new gas pumps and canopies and sewer system upgrades. The building will also provide for approximately 60 future gaming spaces.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mr. Colbert to approve GR29-025.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods, David Woerz

13 yes votes

The motion to approve GR29-025 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 29-026, Approval of Development Budget Amendment (Ada Maintenance Building Phase II)

This resolution approves the amendment to the Development Budget for Ada Maintenance Building Phase II, Project Number 20-0098-10 in the amount of $212,663.00. Phase II of the Ada Maintenance Building was based on the original Scope of Work and was created August, 2010. The original scope of work included a gravel drive leading into the facility and using concrete for the parking areas; and did not include a connecting road to the vehicle maintenance garage building. Having a concrete road leading into the facility will provide a permanent roadway requiring little to no maintenance. Additionally, construction of a connecting road to the adjacent property will make it convenient to transport vehicles and equipment to the vehicle maintenance shop without utilizing the public roadway. Since the original Development Budget was submitted, construction material costs have increased almost double due to the rise of oil and fuel prices.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Barker to approve GR29-026.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods, David Woerz

13 yes votes

The motion to approve GR29-026 carried unanimously.

Mr. Scott Colbert concluded his report.

(B) HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Dean McManus

General Resolution Number 29-024, Approval of Application for Funding, Family Violence Prevention and Services

This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for federal funding to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, for the continuation of the Family Violence Prevention and Services project up to and including the FY2016 funding cycle. With the funds from the grant, the Chickasaw Nation is able to assist clients with emergency shelter and related costs when leaving an abusive situation. This can include emergency housing, food, clothing, household items, bedding, beds, kitchen items, transportation, advocacy, emotional support, etc. The grant also allows the Chickasaw Nation to provide crisis counseling, safety planning and education regarding domestic violence, assistance with protective orders and facilitate a weekly support group, "Spirit Circle." The Chickasaw Nation also makes many referrals to tribal and non-tribal agencies to assist with transitional housing, legal and other needs. This grant serves Chickasaw, other Native American and non-Native American victims and their dependants. The grant proposal formula funding is calculated based on tribal population.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Green to approve GR29-024.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods, David Woerz

13 yes votes

The motion to approve GR29-024 carried unanimously.

Ms. McManus concluded her report.

AGENDA ITEM #7 **NEW BUSINESS** (Comments from Citizens)

Comments were made by Erika Sandefur regarding the need for assistance with student housing, and Mike Watson made comments on the Ardmore Wellness Center swimming pool, building projects, the elderly energy assistance program, and the storm shelter program.

Announcements included the 2013 budget hearing scheduled for June 7, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., at the Legislative Building, and Culture Weekend, at Kullihoma beginning today.

AGENDA ITEM #8 ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean McManus, Secretary
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Prepared by:
Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

2011-2012 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District
Seat #

1. Toby Perkins
15810 CR 1569
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-2606 Cell
Toby.Perkins@chickasaw.net

2. Nancy Elliott
620 Ann
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-4374
Nancy.Elliott@chickasaw.net

3. Katie Case
14368 County Road 3597
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 272-8385
Katie.Case@chickasaw.net

4. Dean McManus
5980 CR 3430
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 235-2651
Dean.McManus@chickasaw.net

5. Mary Jo Green
2000 E. 14th Place
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 310-4563
Mary.Green@chickasaw.net

Pickens District
Seat #

1. David Woerz
P.O. Box 669
Ardmore, OK 73402
(580) 235-3240
David.Woerz@chickasaw.net

2. Connie Barker
509 SW 7th Ave.
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-4175
Connie.Barker@chickasaw.net

3. Linda Briggs
400 NW 4th
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-7268
Linda.Briggs@chickasaw.net

4. Shana Tate Hammond
801 N. Mississippi
Ada, Oklahoma
(580) 235-1438
Shana.Hammond@chickasaw.net

Tishomingo District
Seat #

1. D. Scott Colbert
P.O. Box 773
Sulphur, OK 73086
(580) 421-3425
Scott.Colbert@chickasaw.net

2. Tim Colbert
P.O. Box 773
Sulphur, OK 73086
(580) 421-7242
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net

3. Steven Woods
5071 Grays Road
Davis, OK 73030
(580) 272-7270
Steve.Woods@chickasaw.net

Panola District
Seat #

1. Beth Alexander
Box 246
Achille, OK 74720
(580) 283-3409
beth.alexander@chickasaw.net
bethalexander22@hotmail.com

Geraldine Alexander

Geraldine "Grandma" Alexander, 80, died May 18, 2012. Services were May 21 with a graveside service in Ada.

She was an employee of the State of Oklahoma for many years before she retired in 1995.

The first part of her life was spent in Ada, Okla. She later moved to Oklahoma City with her husband Willis. She was very proud of her Chickasaw Heritage.

For many years Mrs. Alexander made it her mission to see that her family was taken care of. She never hesitated helping those in need. She had a heart so big and full of so much love.

Upon hearing that she had to have open - heart surgery, she let it be know to her daughter, Sharon, and grandson, Clarence, that she was very happy with the life that she led. She had a full live and was completely ready to march around the thrones of heaven, and has always been excited to be reunited with her family members who had previously passed.

Although it is extremely difficult to accept her physical absence in our lives, we are each very lucky to have so many wonderful memories to cherish in our hearts. We will hold her in our hearts forever.

When she turned 80 years old on March 1, 2012, her family hosted a surprise birthday party to celebrate her wonderful life. It would be the last gathering of the family until the time of her death. Her family gathered once again to celebrate the birth of her new life in Heaven.

Everyone that knew her was aware of her deep faith in religion and the Lord. We can't deny that she is in a much happier place. She had always looked forward to Heaven. Now we take comfort in knowing that she is there looking down upon us, wishing us happiness and faith in the Lord, just as she had. She will be deeply missed.

It is foolish to mourn the woman who died. Rather we should thank God that such a woman lived.

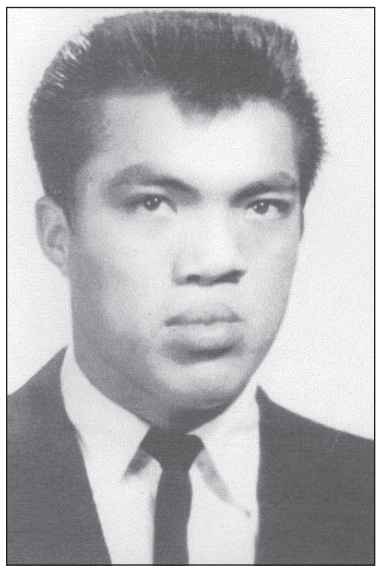
To Those I Love

If I should ever leave you whom I love to go along the silent way, grieve not, nor speak of me with tears, but laugh and talk of me as if I were beside you there. (I'd come-I'd come, could I find a way! But would not tears and grief be barriers?) And when you hear a song or see a bird I loved, please do not let the thought of me be sad...for I am loving you just as I always have...you were so good to me! There are so many things I wanted still to do; so many things to say to you... remember that I did not fear...I was just leaving you that was so hard to face...we cannot see beyond...but this I know: I loved you so-'twas Heaven here with you!

She is preceded in death by her mother, Mary; her father, Noel; husband Willis Alexander; sisters, Elizabeth Alexander, May Shields, Marceline White, Lela Thomas; a son, Jimmy Alexander; a daughter, Cynthia "Ann" Rodriguez; grandsons, Randy Timberman and Anthony Williams.

She is survived by her children Sharon Wright, Lisa Alexander, and Ronnie Jackson; seven grandchildren, Clarence Wright, Jody Timberman, Guy "Bubba" Kaniatobe, Tiffany Kaniatobe, LaTonia Orphan, Kevin Gipson, and James Alexander; 11 great-grandchildren, Natasha Burns, Alex Burns, Jay-Lyn Kaniatobe, Skyla Gipson, Lisa Michelle Gipson, Erika Gipson, Feather Alexander, Keana Alexander, Rodrick Orphan, Jacob Williams, and Trista Williams; three great-great-grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Gene Brown



Gene Brown, 71, of Ardmore, Okla., and Ada, Okla., died May 10, 2012. He was cremated and his final resting place is at the Enville (OK) Cemetery next to his mother, Mary B. Johnson.

He was born April 13, 1941 to Cubby Brown and Mary Brown Johnson at Enville, Okla. He was the grandson of original Chickasaw enrollee, Levi Brown and Annie Sealy Brown.

Mr. Brown attended school at Carter Seminary (an Indian Boarding School), Ardmore, and graduated from Haskell Institute (an Indian Boarding High School) at Lawrence, Kansas. While attending Haskell he was active in football and participated in many other activities.

He was a great storyteller about his many adventures and challenges he faced during his lifetime. He loved watching sports, classic westerns and being outdoors.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cubby Brown and Mary Brown Johnson; and brothers, Johnny Mack, Ronnie, and Donnie.

He is survived by six daughtes, Mary, April, Jean, Monica, Jessica and Misty; seven grandchildren; nephews; nieces; numerous cousins; and two sisters, Ruby Freedle and Pat Holt.

Note of Thanks

A special "Thank You" to Dean McManus for her assistance. A heartfelt thanks to Tom Farve in helping with the burial of "Bull" at Enville Cemetery.

Christine Laura Jefferson Keel

Christine Laura Jefferson Keel, 93, died peacefully May 3, 2012.

She was born April 13, 1919 at Connerville, Okla., to Sweeney Jefferson and Rosalie Anderson Jefferson, both full-blood Choctaw and Chickasaw. She was always proud of her tribal heritage.

As her father did not speak much English, she became fluent in her tribal language and enjoyed speaking it throughout her life. She often recalled many happy memories of growing up on a farm with her three brothers (Alphus, Spencer, and Andrew) and two sisters (Lena and Esterline).

Her son and grandchildren loved to hear stories of her childhood gathering huckleberries in the hills during the summer while her mother bottled the fruit in a big kettle over a fire and going to church in a horse-drawn wagon in all seasons after her father had already left home very early to walk the seven miles so he could start the fire in the stove to heat the church before the people arrived.

At the age of eight, she started school in Ardmore (OK) at Carter Seminary and then later graduated with honors from Chilocco High School.

She married a career soldier, Douglas J. Keel, in 1942 and lived in France and Germany in the early 1950s.

Most of her adult years were spent in Lawton, Okla.

She held various jobs, retiring as the manager of a neighborhood grocery store in Lawton about 25 years ago.

In 2003, she left Oklahoma to join her son, Franklin Keel, and his family in Lebanon, Tenn., where she made many new friends and enjoyed numerous travels.

Even in her late 80s, she was always up for an adventure and looked forward to going someplace new. Her family was enriched by her presence in their lives as evidenced by an essay her granddaughter, Caroline, wrote and submitted for the 2011 Anoli Chickasaw writing contest on the topic of "The Chickasaw I Admire Most."

In Tennessee, she had many opportunities to share her Indian heritage through speaking to school and senior center groups and representing her tribe at events ranging from the dedication of an ancient Indian mound state historic site to a ceremony at the Tennessee State Capitol.

She loved gardening, walking, and especially talking with all her grandchildren.

She was a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

She is survived by a son, Franklin Keel, daughter-in-law, Kathie, and their daughter, Caroline of Lebanon; and grandsons Christopher, Joseph, and Andrew Keel, of Utah, Wyoming, and South Carolina, respectively; and ten great-grandchildren.

Anita Macaluso

Anita Macaluso died May 29, 2012 after a long battle with Dementia and COPD. She has gone to Heaven to be with her mother, brother and sister.

Mrs. Macaluso had a zest for life and enjoyed dancing, telling jokes, playing poker and working in the restaurant industry.

She was a special lady to her husband; a wonderful cowgirl to her son-in-law, Tom and daughter-in-law Judy.

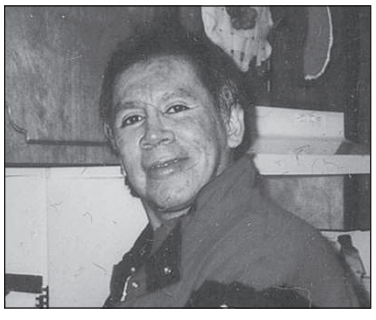
She was a proud citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and inspirational matriarch to her family.

Work was fun, life was a ball, her family had an angel on earth and now she is in Heaven with her big smile and wonderful laugh.

She is survived by her loving husband, Charlie; and her two wonderful children, Doug and Debra; grandchildren, Jonah, Kelsey and Kaylee; and niece Rachel. She will be missed by all.

Michael Brown

June 27, 1959 - June 2, 2007



I give you this one thought to keep -

I am with you still - I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow,

I am the diamond glints on snow

I am the sunlight on ripened grain,

When you awaken in the mornings hush

I am the sweet uplifting rush,

of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft starts that shine at night

Do not think of me as gone,

I am with you still in each new dawn.

Mom, Brother, Sisters, Nieces and Nephews

Barry Vernon Straughn

Chickasaw citizen Barry Vernon Straughn, 75, longtime resident of Norman, Okla., died June 11, 2012 at Midwest City, Okla.

He was born November 2, 1936 at Oklahoma City to Vernon Straughn and Lillian Addie Coffey Straughn Mayes. He graduated from Wilson High School in 1954.

Mr. Straughn enjoyed using his artistic talent while working for many years with Award Design Medals as a "Tool and Die Man." After retirement he continued to do the work he loved, setting up shop in his home. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a Chickasaw Nation elder.

He was preceded in death by his father Vernon and mother Lillian; grandson Blase Wright; and great-grandson Simon Wright.

He is survived by daughters, Jeannie Barbour, Diane Wright, Jana Wilcox and husband, Wynn, Joy Evans and husband, Mike; a son Barry Straughn; brothers Marlin and wife, Lou, and Lance and wife, Susan; nine grandchildren, April Talley, Trista Wright, Chelsea Wright, Chris Woolly, Cassie Woolly, Madison Evans, Micah Hart, Samantha Wilcox and Jake Wilcox; five great-grandchildren; and many other family members and friends.

John Lewis Underwood

John Lewis Underwood, 57, died May 11, 2012. A graveside service was May 15 at the Tishomingo (OK) Cemetery with Rev. Bill Blair officiating.

He was born August 2, 1954 at Madill, Okla., to Chisholm Underwood and Ruby Mae (Ned) Underwood.

He graduated from Tishomingo High School in 1972. He married Nadine Fleming in May 1973.

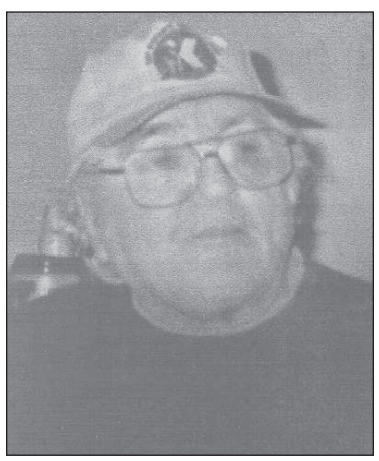
He enjoyed working as a commercial truck driver for many years until his health required him to retire.

His greatest moments were spending time with his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father; his step-father, Leon Anderson; and a sister, Theresa Hart.

He is survived by his wife, Nadine; his mother, Ruby Anderson; a son, Brian; a daughter, Sarah Crawford and husband, Eddie; four grandchildren, Raven, Miakoda, Jacie and Ethan; a great-grandson, Brody; two nieces; extended family; numerous friends at Davita Dialysis and the Chickasaw Transportation; and life long friend Dean Anglin.

Billy Ray Underwood



Billy Ray Underwood, 75, of Eucha, Okla., died October 13, 2011 at Muskogee, Okla. He was born August 12, 1936 at Fitztown, Okla., to Louis and Tressie (Lyda) Underwood.

Mr. Underwood served two terms in the U.S. Air Force.

He met and married Marjorie Schmidt on Jan. 18, 1958 in Chickasha, Okla. He was an instructor for the Spartan Aeronautic College for thirteen years.

He enjoyed fishing, going to auctions and riding in his golf cart.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four sisters; and eight brothers.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, of the home of Tiajuna, Okla; a son, William Underwood and wife, Christine, of Wagoner, Okla.; a daughter, Vicki Madha, of Tiajuna; two sisters, Velma Ross, and Joyce Vinyard, both of Anadarko, Okla.; two brothers, Donald Underwood, and Calvin Underwood and wife, Joanne, all of Blanchard, Okla.; a grandchild, Crissi Marie Blevins and husband, Ray Gene, of Tiajuna; and a great-grandchild Victoria Grace Blevins, of Tiajuna; and other relatives and friends.

The Family will have a private memorial service at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at www.grandlakefuneralhomes.com.

Eric Dean "Doc" Warren

Eric Dean "Doc" Warren was deployed to Afghanistan in January 2012 for his third tour of duty where he made the ultimate sacrifice May 26,2012.

He was born November 22, 1988, to William Burris and Donna Beth Nichols.

He was a resident of Shawnee, Okla., but was stationed at Camp Le Jeune, North Carolina. He attended school at Dale, Grove, Shawnee, and graduated from McLoud High School in 2008.

As a child, he was active in Cub Scouts, numerous little league sports, and earned his black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Later he was active in football, wrestling, and drama. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy, graduated from corpsman school, completed Fleet Marine Force training as a combat corpsman, and he was henceforth considered a marine. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, 1st Marine Division (Forward), 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), Camp Le Jeune, North Carolina.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandma and grandpa Starkey; Uncle James Burris; and his precious granny, Sebena Burris.

He is survived by his parents Marvin Jr. and Donna Warren, of Shawnee; William and Patti Burris, of Del City, Okla.; a sister Paris Burris, of Oklahoma City; brothers, Torn Burris, of Oklahoma City, and Chantz Houston, of Ada, Okla.; maternal grandmother Carole Nichols, maternal grandfather Senior Chief W.D. Nichols USN (Ret.) and wife Paulette; an aunt Lori Nichols; an uncle Darin Nichols, and wife, Terra and son, Kai; grandparents, Yuvonne and Charles Eoff, Marvin Sr. and Libbey Warren; an aunt Michelle and husband, Jeff Edmonson; uncles Melvin Burris and Philip Burris and wife, Paula; and numerous cousins, family, and friends who all grieve his absence.

His awards and decorations include: Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Specialist; Combat Action Ribbon; National Defense Service Medal; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; NATO Medal; Purple Heart

Thank You to,

Family and friends,

Patriot Riders,

Resthaven Memorial Park and Funeral Home, Shawnee,

Thank you to Downtown Pentecostal Holiness Church, Shawnee, for dinner, and congregation for preparing the meal,

Pastors Ron Baldridge and Kevin Spurgin,

Thank you Stan Smith for the Indian Prayer,

Thank you to all the soldiers that protect this land.

Anthony Ray Whelchel

Anthony Ray Whelchel Whelchel, 43, of Connerville, Okla., died March 27, 2012, at a Norman (OK) hospital. Services were March 31 at Criswell Funeral Home Chapel, Ada, with the Rev. Tony Poe officiating. Burial followed at Connerville Cemetery. The Chickasaw Honor Guard conducted military honors at the cemetery.

He was born Feb. 11, 1969, at Tishomingo to Billy A. and Imogene Gale Hamilton Whelchel.

He lived in the Connerville area all his life and graduated from McLish High School.

Mr. Whelchel was a carpenter and a member of Temple of God Church in Connerville.

He served in the U.S. Army. He was activated with the National Guard and served from March 27, 1986, until being discharged Sept. 3, 1987.

He is survived by two daughters, Brittany Whelchel, Connerville, and Jessica Whelchel, Ada; two sons, Blake Whelchel, Stonewall, and Lance Whelchel, Madill; a stepson, Anthony Leader, Madill; his parents, Billy A. and Imogene Gale Whelchel, Connerville; three grandchildren, Jaxton Davis, Jonavon Davis and Kaden Postoak.

Bearers were Clint Lane, Gary Davis, Blake Whelchel, Chris Snell, Tony Walker and David Timmons.

Online condolences may be left at criswellfh.com

JUNE 2012 RESOLUTIONS

General Resolution Number 29-027
Approval of Application for Funding
Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH) 7

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation Division of Health to apply for an IHS-NARCH 7 grant. The Chickasaw Nation Division of Health along with the Cherokee Nation and the University of Oklahoma will conduct tribally driven health research projects and develop the capacity of faculty researchers. Since 2000, the Chickasaw Nation has had a successful and ongoing relationship with the University of Oklahoma and the Cherokee Nation through past NARCH grants. The CNDH would approve the prospective research projects through the Chickasaw Nation Institutional Review Board, and collaborate with University of Oklahoma and the Cherokee Nation to facilitate and complete the grant projects.

Benefits of the NARCH 7 grant would include development of interventions to reduce health disparities and to enhance the strengths and resiliencies of Native communities and individuals; development of a cadre of Native American scientists and health professionals who are competitive for federal research funding; and by increasing the capability of both the Chickasaw Nation Division of Health and the University of Oklahoma to work in partnership to produce competitive grants and specialty health services for Oklahoma Native Americans.

The Chickasaw Nation will submit the NARCH 7 grant and will serve as the administrator of grant funds throughout the grant cycle. The grant award amount will be approximately $1,000,000 for the total partnership for five years.

Presented by: Human Resources Committee

Yes votes: Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods, David Woerz

Abstain: Katie Case

Absent: Beth Alexander, Scott Colbert

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole Meeting
May 14, 2012
Present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz
Absent: Tim Colbert, Steve Woods
Finance Committee
June 11, 2012
Present: Scott Colbert, Linda Briggs, Nancy Elliott, Toby Perkins, David Woerz
Absent: Tim Colbert, Steve Woods
Human Resources Committee
June 11, 2012
Present: Dean McManus, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, David Woerz

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